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March 2020

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COVER STORY



The contrast of old and new creates a harmonious mix in this extended period semi (page 108).



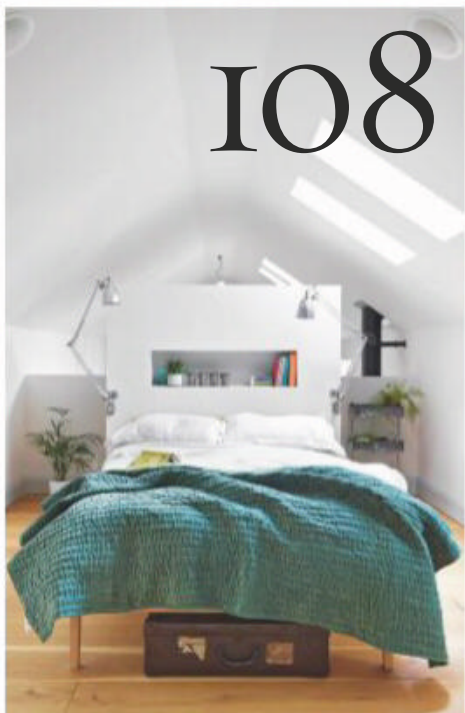
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WELCOME

Can't you just see spring beginning to unfurl enticingly around you? Already, the mornings are brighter, sunsets are later and the darling buds of May feel almost within reach. Light has such a powerful effect on how we feel – and when we decorate to make the most of the sunshine (however much we have), it can create a truly wonderful impact, refreshing our surroundings and enhancing our mood.

We're celebrating this throughout the March issue, offering inspiration and ideas for flooding your home with light. Lisa Bailey's pale porcelain floor tiles and soothingly swirled marble island beautifully reflect the rays pouring in from her glass sliding doors (page 14), while the full ceiling of windows in Morgan Scott-Murch's dining space breathes new life into her collection of vintage and reclaimed finds (page 52). Thankfully, those of us without vast expanses of glass (myself included) can take heart from the creative tricks in the period villa on page 123, which make it seem like the new season has sprung. Here's to the happiest time of year.

PIP MCCORMAC, ACTING EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

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A STEP UP

The space in a small Paris apartment has been ingeniously crafted by its architect owner



SHINING EXAMPLE

Making the most of the natural light in a modern Midlands family home

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

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TAKEN BY SURPRISE

A cottage was not what Julie and Mark Smith had been searching for, but one look inside and they were both hooked

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS | PHOTOGRAPHY POLLY ELTES



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Grade II-listed detached house

LOCATION Derbyshire

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, snug, study, five bedrooms (three en suite), bathroom, plus guest annexe

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We had an Edwardian house on the outskirts of Derby,' says Julie.



SNUG

Plenty of charm is packed into this room, where animals were once kept.

Jude chair, price on request, Alexander & James Sofas. Try the vintage French Sheaf of Wheat side table with glass top, £917.33, 1stdibs



First appearances can be deceptive, as Julie Smith and her husband Mark found out when they went to view a detached cottage in Derbyshire. 'I'd always preferred Victorian and Edwardian houses with high ceilings, so from the outside this place didn't appeal to me,' says Julie. 'But after stepping inside, we both immediately warmed to it.'

As well as the charm of its interior, the house held certain other appeals – it was an upsize and so allowed more space for the couple's sons Oska, now 18, and Ned, 17, and it meant moving from the outskirts of Derby into the countryside. 'We'd wanted to live somewhere more rural, but not much ever came on the market in a village we liked, especially with land,' says Julie. 'So when we saw this house for sale close to the village, we were

delighted.' With their offer accepted, the Smiths moved in and began a programme of building work that took two years. 'Changes had been made in the 1970s that we didn't like, so we wanted to take the house back as far as we could to its original state,' says Julie. 'As it's one long set of rooms with the kitchen in the middle, we could live on one side and work on the other, but it was still hard living with builders for so long.'

One of the first things the couple did was get planning permission to knock through walls that separated the oldest and newest parts of the property, which made it feel like two different houses. 'We discovered a small room in the process and it's become a cupboard space now,' says Julie. Work then began on the oldest section. 'The beams were covered in a





KITCHEN

'The patterned flooring makes a striking statement,' Julie remarks.

Demireks Vintage Aliso Blue tiles are similar, £85.25sq m, Tiles-Direct. Bespoke cabinetry in Pantry Blue, deVol. Walls in Shaded White estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

DINING ROOM

A large central rug brings softness and warmth to this eating area.

Owens 410 handwoven wool rug in Blue would work here, from £69, Wayfair. Try Bistro Life for classic wooden bistro chairs like these, price on request

SITTING ROOM

'I love this room,' says Julie. 'It's the oldest part of the house and has lots of character.'

For a similar footstool, try the Parker Knoll Derwent, £605, Furniture Village. Bespoke shutters, GW Heath. Stovak Stockton 8 double-sided stove, £1,511, Simply Stoves



black tar-like paint, and a specialist company did a great job of treating them and taking them back to their original state.' Then York stone floors and aged wooden floorboards were fitted, and radiators swapped for traditional cast-iron ones. 'Because the house is Grade II-listed, we couldn't change the glazing so we put in insulation wherever the walls were exposed, and also rewired and replastered in some areas,' she adds.

Changes were also made to the layout. A straight flight of stairs was replaced with a wooden winding one and an upstairs bedroom became a bathroom for Oska and Ned. A barn room at one end of the house was opened up to the ceiling and a floor added to become a two-bedroom guest accommodation. The kitchen floor plan didn't change, but new cabinets were

installed. 'They made a huge difference,' says Julie. 'The deep grey-blue shade gives the room a contemporary style.'

Throughout the rest of the house, Julie has plumped for a grey background palette and used different accent colours, including mustard, to create a chic and warm ambience. 'I was influenced by the cottage look and wanted the interior to be cosy, English and countrified,' she explains. 'I love an eclectic feel so combined old, new, rustic and industrial, and gave it a contemporary twist with some retro touches.'

Beautiful sitting areas abound, which isn't surprising given that Julie and Mark run sofa company, Alexander & James. 'I adore creating vignettes and comfortable spaces where you just want to curl up and read a book,' smiles Julie. **25**





BEDROOM

An en-suite bathroom makes this cosy top floor spot an ideal retreat for guests.

Walls in Hardwick White estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Palmeral linen cushions in Off-White & Green, £195 each, House of Hackney

MASTER BEDROOM

Dark wood furniture lends dramatic contrast while creating a luxurious look.

Venetian four-poster bed, £5,299, And So To Bed. Welsh blanket in Bluestone, £320, Tinsmiths. Retro English Mustard telephone, £50, Wild & Wolf

MASTER EN SUITE

With a roll-top taking centre stage, this scheme is designed for leisurely pampering.

Button fabric stool, from £293, Alexander & James Sofas. Take a look at Petra set of two white marble side tables with gold leaf base, £499, Woods Furniture

DECORATING TIP *'If you mix traditional and modern items, the old authenticates the new and the new sharpens the old'*

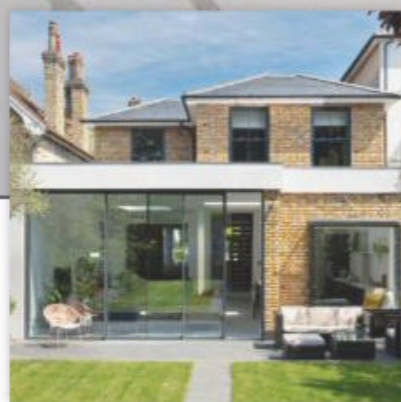


FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY

Smooth transition

The modern extension that Lisa Bailey added to her Georgian home works in perfect harmony with the period character

FEATURE CASSIE PRYCE | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GILES



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Four-bedroom detached Georgian house, built circa 1832

LOCATION Surrey

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, playroom, four bedrooms (two en suite, one Jack-and-Jill bathroom)

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a semi-detached house in west London,' says Lisa.





Making the move out of London to the Surrey suburbs was all about family for Lisa and Richard Bailey. 'Our twins, Talulah and Lilli, were only 10 months old when we swapped Ealing for the greenery of Weybridge,' recalls Lisa. 'We were drawn by the great schools and we wanted a property that would give us and the girls room to grow.'

It's easy to see why the couple fell for this characterful Georgian house. Brimming with period charm, with four good-sized bedrooms, Chesterton House offered the potential to create the family home Lisa had been looking for. It also gave Lisa the chance to create a business opportunity, renting out the house as a photography and film location (@chestertonhouse). However, the rooms were small and the

couple knew they wanted to alter the layout for modern living. 'The first job we tackled was knocking the sitting room into the dining room to create a large more usable space,' says Lisa, a personal fashion stylist at BeauBaileyRose.

With plans approved to add a sizeable extension to the back of the house, Lisa and Richard removed the leaky old conservatory here, in order to create the open-plan kitchen, dining and living space they'd been waiting for.

As building work got under way, the family made the decision to live on site, using just one bedroom with a temporary kitchen. 'With no heating or hot water, it was certainly a testing time,' says Lisa. 'We knew that, with such an old property, problems would inevitably come up along the way, but even we couldn't have predicted the setbacks we would encounter.' Not

DINING AREA

Velvet dining chairs tie in with co-ordinating soft furnishings throughout the rest of the house and help to add a sense of luxury.

Talula oval dining table, £1,609, Barker and Stonehouse. The Heather dining chair in Forest Green velvet, £99 each, Cult Furniture, is a good match

SITTING ROOM

Lisa has preserved the Georgian charm of this room and reinstated panelling, fireplaces and cornicing. 'This is our family cosy space in winter time.'

Blue velvet sofa, from £1,800, Cameron Broom. The Fats chaise longue in Soothing Grey velvet, £1,395, Loaf, is similar. Mobile chandelier in antique brass, £299, West Elm



long after starting the demolition of the back of the house, a three-metre well was discovered beneath the old conservatory and another underneath the kitchen. 'The second well had collapsed, meaning the back of the house was essentially floating on a deep hole and we were alarmed to learn that there were no foundations under this part of the property. It meant the back of the house had to be pulled down and completely rebuilt.'

Looking on the bright side, this setback gave Lisa and Richard the chance to redesign the extension to incorporate new changes upstairs and reconfigure the staircase. 'Things always happen for a reason and, although disheartening at the time, it gave us more scope with the new extension.'

With the structural work complete, the couple had a clear vision for the interior of the house with the aim to seamlessly

combine beautiful Georgian features with new, modern clean lines. Reinstated panelling and plasterwork in the sitting room now sits harmoniously alongside the contemporary extension. 'I love vintage style, while Richard leans towards a more modern look, so we've blended the two to create something unique to us,' says Lisa. 'Richard is the owner of an interiors and soft furnishings company, Cameron Broom, so incorporating the right fabrics and colours was at the forefront of our design.'

Creating their modern Georgian home has taken time and patience to overcome the hurdles that come with a period renovation project. 'I feel we've managed to bring the original building into the 21st century,' says Lisa. 'Preserving the past while putting our stamp on the space has been a challenge, but the reward of the end result makes it worthwhile.' 25

BEDROOM

'I chose a muted green shade for the bedroom walls, as this colour is typical of a Georgian home', says Lisa. The pink bedframe adds a modern twist.

Walls in Velvet Evening flat matt emulsion, £21.50 for 2.5ltr, Crown. Besley double bed in Dusk Pink, £279; Aula side table in brushed brass and glass, £169, both Made

EN SUITE

Minimalist in style, this modern bathroom has marble hexagonal tiles and brass fittings. 'I've kept this room monochrome for a timeless finish,' says Lisa.

Mode Heath freestanding bath, £629; Ellis countertop basin, £79.99, both Victoria Plum. For similar tiles, try the Equipe Carrara hexagon tiles, £34.65sq m, Tiles Direct



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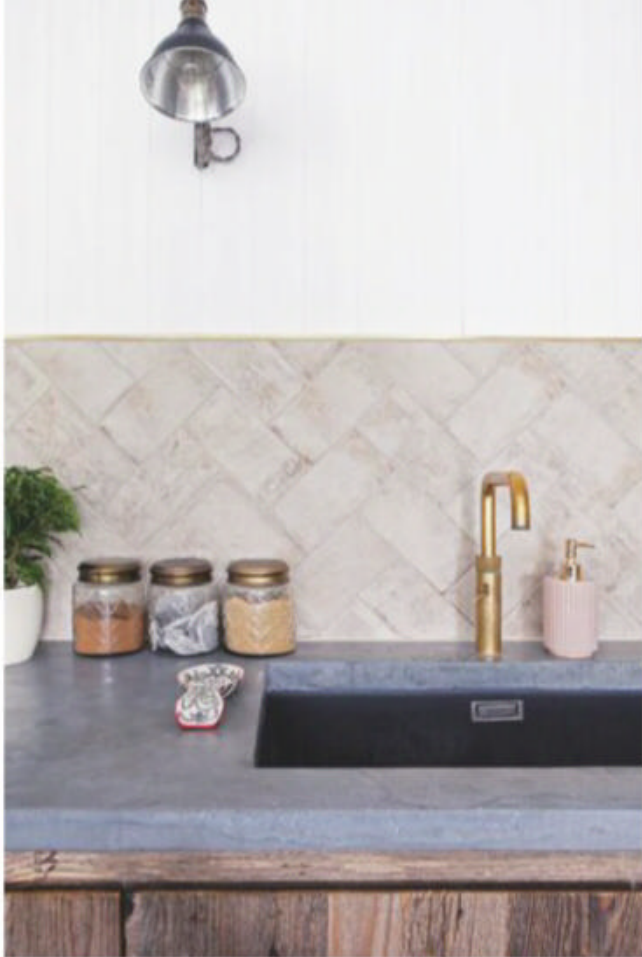
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STAYING POWER

Having decided against moving house, Alissa and Craig Glyn set about reworking their barn-style home with a practical layout and modern-rustic design

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached 1970s house

LOCATION Hertfordshire

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/snug, playroom, utility, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2009

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

‘Before buying this place, we lived in a flat in a converted 1920s house,’ says Alissa.





2

1 SNUG

The emerald green sofa adds vibrancy and softens the raw natural materials.

Hendricks sofa, £2,600, Habitat. Try Sienna Black and White Bobble pouffe, £150, Graham and Green

2 KITCHEN

Reclaimed wood was chosen for the units for a pleasing rustic finish.

Black Rattan bar stool, £195, Rockett St George. Lantern marble pendant, £245, Heal's

3 DINING AREA

'Our house already had lots of character but the oak beams and panelling adds to it,' says Alissa.

West Elm John Vogel chairs, £249 each, Mad About Mid Century Modern



3



2

LESSON
LEARN'T
*'Before, we
didn't use all
our rooms so
the new layout
needed to be
communal.
Having only
three bar stools
in the kitchen
pushes us to
eat at the
dining table'*



3



Unable to agree on the location of their next move, Alissa Glyn and her husband Craig decided to stay put and transform the ground floor of their Hertfordshire home into a chic and industrial-style family space. 'Craig wanted to move and take on a big project and I was happy to stay,' says Alissa. 'But I won him over!'

Thankfully, there were no arguments about what they wanted to achieve. 'We both still loved the barn-style architecture of the house, but wanted a completely different look inside, with an emphasis on natural materials and textures, rather than colour,' says Alissa.

The couple have lived in their home since 2009 with daughters, Gracie, now 10, and Myla, seven. Initially they focussed on family life, and then a few years ago Craig started to look at how they were using the house. 'We weren't using it to its full potential,' he says. 'We'd all gather in the kitchen – the smallest room in the house – and we had a separate dining room that we rarely used.'

Their solution was to extend at the rear by three metres and knock through the dining room, kitchen and old breakfast room to create a large, open space. Keen for a top-notch design, the couple found architect Nick Berzins from Andris Berzins & Associates. The firm has a good track record with contemporary and commercial West End projects, which dovetailed nicely with the building contractor,

Richard Green from Lecale Homes. 'Nick's drawings were extremely detailed and Richard's fixed price was spot on,' says Craig. 'We were organised and bought everything in advance and once the build began, we didn't change anything, which helped it run smoothly.'

The springboard for the industrial look was prompted by the Crittall-style doors in a set of three across the back of the house. 'We built our whole design concept around the doors and the partitions between them,' says Craig. 'The look has character and was more in keeping with our barn-style home than modern sliding doors.'

Huge oak beams were used to form the structure of the extension, which harmonise with the existing exposed wood in the sitting room. 'We love wood,' says Alissa. 'I have a bit of an obsession with rooms feeling cosy and looking interesting, so we played with different wood textures and cladding for decoration.' The kitchen cupboards are made from reclaimed wood – chosen from a picture and a sample the size of a coaster. 'Looking back, it's ridiculous to think we ordered our kitchen on the back of such a small sample,' says Alissa. 'But it was worth the risk as our kitchen has turned out so well.'

It took five months to completely rework the ground floor, with new furniture and artwork adding a dash of colour against the organic backdrop. Upstairs remains as before, for now. 'We adore our house,' says Alissa. 'We're not moving anywhere now.' 25

1-3 SITTING ROOM

'Wooden sliding doors were fitted to imbue a barn-like feel,' says Alissa. Rug-printed Losange chair, £998, Anthropologie. Olivia sofa in Isla Kingfisher velvet, £3,160, Neptune. Calvin armchair in Green, £399, Atkin and Thyme, is similar

4 MASTER BEDROOM

Whitewashed cladding enhances the ethereal feel. Kartell E' Wall light in Pink, £65, Made In Design. Cherie bedside table is similar, £231, Sweetpea & Willow

5 CLOAKROOM

'The panels create a very different mood painted navy blue,' says Alissa. Brass-framed hexagonal mirror, £32, Rockett St George. Pink Alalpardo floor tiles, £3.75 each, Bert & May

FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY



MAKING AN IMPACT

Blending contemporary chic with classic architecture, Emma Allen and Mark Opie's family home has wow factor in every room

FEATURE KATHERINE SORRELL | PHOTOGRAPHY ANYA RICE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Four-bedroom Edwardian detached house

LOCATION Cornwall

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, family room, kitchen, four bedrooms, bathroom.

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We spent 10 years working on a four-storey, 17th-century property in Penryn,' says Emma.

DINING AREA

Two reception rooms were knocked through to create one large, bright and comfortable family living/dining space.

Vintage Arkana dining table, similar to the circular Tulip table by Eero Saarinen, £499.99, The Little Tulip Shop. Vaserely circular wool rug in Mustard, £349, Made



FAMILY ROOM

Emma and Mark like to display artists' work from their own gallery.

The sofa is vintage G Plan. Cushions, Eat Art. Souk wool rug, £159, West Elm



HALLWAY

A deep blue-black paint makes this space ultra-dramatic. The original Edwardian tiles were discovered under the carpet.

Walls painted in Railings estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

When Emma Allen and Mark Opie envisaged the transformation of their home, they felt there was only one way to go. 'With its high ceilings and elegant proportions, the house demanded something bold and dramatic,' says Emma. 'We wanted to remain sympathetic to its roots, while creating something that combined classic and contemporary.' From the outside, this is a typically handsome early-Edwardian villa; inside, it is anything but typical. Along with panelled doors, sash windows, plaster mouldings and period fireplaces are daring colours and patterns, intriguing textures, arresting artworks and the clean, sculptural lines of vintage and modern furniture. But it is also a comfortable and practical family home.

Emma and Mark, who have run a gallery and picture framing business, Eat Art, in Falmouth for almost 20 years, were not actually looking to move home when they came across photos of this house for sale. However, they were so convinced of its potential that they put in an offer before they even viewed it. 'Walking in for the first time confirmed our hopes,' Emma says. 'The bones of the house, its layout and the architectural features were great. We fell in love.'

For eight months Emma and the couple's daughters, Eve, 14, and Olivia, eight, lived with Mark's mother in nearby Falmouth, while he camped out on site and carried out much

SITTING ROOM

The black-painted sitting room, furnished with vintage and antique pieces, is sultry and inviting.

Louis de Poortere The Fading World rug in Mineral Black, from £155, Modern Rugs. Find similar vintage lighting at Artinlife SRL on eBay



KITCHEN

Emma designed the 'hidden' kitchen, with the sink and cooker concealed behind neat cupboard doors. A brass island unit, inspired by a vintage bar counter the couple admired in a junk shop, creates a striking focal point.

Brasswork, all bespoke, South West Pipeworks. The Nagoya geometric pendant lights, £99.99 each, Dowsing & Reynolds, have a similar look





BATHROOM

This handsome room features bold, contemporary shapes in neutral tones.

Mode Ellis freestanding bath, £599, Victoria Plum, is similar. Emperador Bianco marble tiles, £51.90sq m, Stone Superstore



MASTER BEDROOM

The upholstered bed (below) is one of the few brand-new items of furniture in the house.

Audrey double bed, from £940, Sofa.com. The Opal floral duvet cover, £90, and pillowcases, £35, all Ted Baker exclusive to Next, are a good match

of the building work. The renovation included a new roof and chimneys, plumbing, electrics, insulation and underfloor heating. Emma and Mark relocated the bathroom, knocked two rooms together to create a family living/dining space. They also commissioned traditional plaster coving and ceiling roses for the whole of the ground floor.

Emma and Mark's influences include both contemporary and vintage design. 'We don't follow trends,' Emma says. 'If we love it, we'll do it, regardless of what's in fashion. Initially, we painted all the rooms white, but it just didn't feel right. So we decided on black for the hall and sitting room; going dark and dramatic was something we'd always wanted to do.' Emma also wanted the kitchen to be functional yet feel like a traditional room, so designed it so that the sink and cooker can be hidden away behind folding panelled doors.

By doing much of the building work themselves, and scouring antiques and charity shops for finds, Emma and Mark have created a high-end look on a budget. 'Most things in the house are secondhand or found on eBay,' says Emma.

After three years of work, the finishing touch was to carefully hang their extensive art collection. 'One of the joys of our job is we get to work with amazing artists, and some of the pieces remind us of a special time or person,' says Emma. 'Coming in the front door feels warm and welcoming. For so long, the house felt like a project. Finally, it feels like home.'



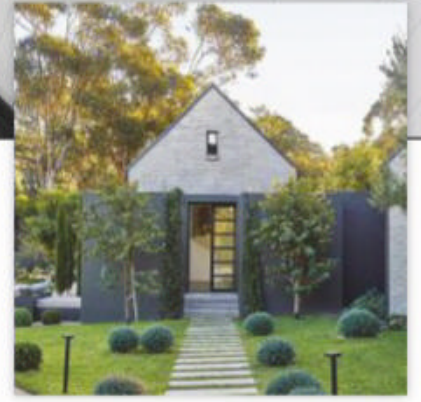
FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY



SHAPE SHIFTERS

With its gentle curves and sophisticated palette, Jim Brett and Ed Gray's mountainside home is a serene retreat

FEATURE SEÁN O'CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY GREG COX/BUREAUX



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

New-build detached

LOCATION South Africa

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen, cloakroom, two bedrooms (both en suite)

BUILT 2019

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Our other home is a loft-style apartment in New York,' says Jim.



SITTING ROOM

The Fly armchairs reflect the couple's love of subtle curves.

Fly chairs by Space Copenhagen, £1,825 each, &Tradition. For similar sofas, try Studio 3, £999 each, Danetti. Diamond Design rug would work here, from £229.99, Zara Home. McSorley's Wonderful Saloon drinks trolley, price on request, Douglas & Company



DINING AREA

Ideal for entertaining, this space, part of the sitting room, is suitably close to the kitchen.

Bespoke 'Constellation' chandelier, The Guild Group. Etta black-stained oak dining table would fit here, £750, Habitat. Try the John round leather mirror, £186, Maisons du Monde

A business foray to South Africa in 2007 opened Jim Brett's eyes to the beauty of the country and, subsequently, he and his husband Ed Gray began to visit it often. 'We fell in love with the place, specifically Cape Town and its environs,' says Jim. So it was only natural that when the pair were looking for somewhere to build a second home, they chose Hout Bay, a mountainside village 30 minutes from the city. 'This home was the first place we've started from scratch,' explains Ed. 'Usually we've carried around the things we love from place to place.'

Appreciating that a project of this nature ought to be sympathetic to its natural environment, the couple enlisted local team Trevyn and Julian McGowan of The Guild Group, which utilises the creativity of local designers. 'Sensual but

pared back and sophisticated,' is how Trevyn describes the look that she and her team created, using a natural palette that pops with rich jewel-like hues – all given room to shine in the barn-like, pitched-roof structure. 'We didn't want the drama of the architecture to fight with too much pattern in the interiors,' she says. 'Jim and Ed lead busy lives so this home needed to feel calm, like a sanctuary.'

This feeling of tranquillity was achieved through a crafted use of colour. 'The blue for the kitchen cabinetry was perfect with the combination of brass and marble,' says Ed. 'I'd seen the colour used in a design magazine many years ago and had been waiting for the right time to replicate it.'

Another source of inspiration was an abstract artwork by John Murray that hangs in the dining space. With its striking



CORRIDOR
Linking the main house to the bedrooms, this area is utilised to display favourite ceramics. Regal Smoke Rock floor tiles, £39.97sq m, Topps Tiles, have a similar look



KITCHEN
The blue-and-brass combination is striking in this light-filled room. For Shaker-style kitchens, price on request, try Harvey Jones. Foundryman sells brass handles, from £6 each. Units painted in Hale Navy eggshell, £86.50 for 3.79ltr, Benjamin Moore

FAVOURITE FEATURE *'I love all the different shaped windows and how they present an intimate and special portrait of our surroundings'*

DESIGN ADVICE *‘Choose the furniture you love, as opposed to letting the shape of the room dictate your choices’*



MASTER BEDROOM
The soft grey furnishings and weathered wood staircase add warmth and texture against the cool white background. Wormly 2500 sofa, price on request, Casamento



STAIRCASE
The stunning spiral design has a rugged sculptural impact. Walls in All White estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

tones mixing with neutral hues, it informed the choices of sofas, wall paints and decorative objects. As with the varying patterns in John Murray’s painting, myriad forms exist in the home, from tapered pot plants to shapely dining chairs and elliptical sideboards, which fulfil Jim and Ed’s brief for curved contours. ‘There are very few hard corners on the furniture,’ says Jim. ‘It’s subtle details that add softness to the experience.’

Equally considered is the collection of ceramic vessels, mostly the work of local artists. ‘I am a bit of a ceramics junkie,’ says Jim, for whom each piece has a personal connection. ‘I can walk you through our house and the things tell the story of places we’ve been and loved,’ he says.

But perhaps as important as the items this home contains is the design of the interior space and the views it affords. Each

room has a unique architectural character: the sitting room and dining area with its cathedral-like vaulted roof exudes a feeling of space, while the kitchen’s low concrete ceiling gives it an industrial edge. Every space enjoys an abundance of light through windows of assorted shapes – tiny rectangles, round circles and prominent large frames – each of which provides views of the dramatic surrounding landscape.

Above all, this amazing house serves as a refuge to come home to for a couple who are constantly on the go with their careers. And one room in particular is a distillation of this feeling – the master bedroom, with its cavernous arches that create a cosy, cocooning atmosphere. ‘When I find myself caught up in the hustle and bustle of New York,’ says Jim, ‘I close my eyes and imagine myself back here.’ 25

BATHROOM

The monochrome scheme adds elegance to this dramatic space.

For a similar freestanding bath, try the Bampton, £2,062, Rubberduck Bathrooms. Cowhide rugs, from £299, London Cows. Try Strauss Black porcelain floor tiles, £22.99sq m, Tile Mountain



NEW DIRECTIONS

At a time when many people decide to downsize, Adrienne and David Newland chose to modernise their family home

FEATURE JENNIFER GOULDING | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVIDE LOVATTI



SITTING ROOM

Glazed cupolas light each end of the new sitting room. 'I love this bespoke console table, a metal tree filled with creatures,' says Adrienne.

The seascape on the facing wall is by Kurt Jackson. Console table, price on request, The Crucible Foundry





HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Victorian townhouse with recent additions

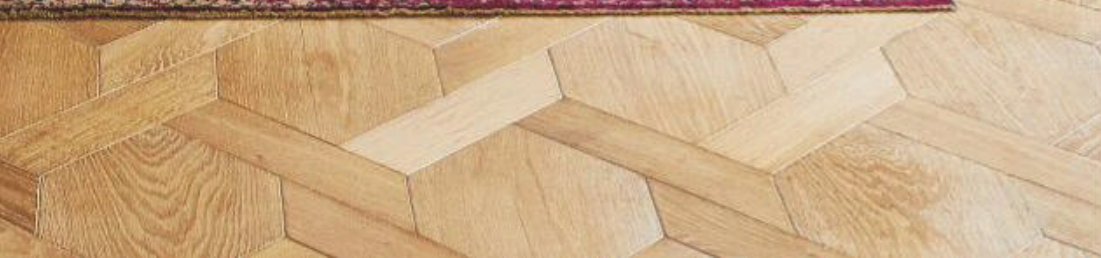
LOCATION West London

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room with dining area, kitchen, dining room, library, study, six bedrooms (five en suite), dressing room, bathroom

PURCHASED 1975

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We travelled extensively before buying this house,' says Adrienne.



DINING ROOM

Inherited antique furniture and art sits well in this elegant space. Find vintage candlesticks on eBay





Many homeowners think of downsizing when their children grow up and leave home, but this was not the case for Adrienne and David Newland. 'The house was really too big for us and I was willing to downsize, but David likes it so much he just refused,' says Adrienne. As a compromise, however, the couple both agreed that the house could benefit from being renovated.

The Newlands bought this West London home back in the 1970s. 'It was originally five flats,' says Adrienne. 'I was very excited when I first looked around because it was so big I got lost. I knew it would be perfect for the large family we were planning and all four of our children grew up here.'

When the couple began to envisage the kind of remodelled space that would work for this new chapter of their lives, they quickly decided that professional help would be required. 'We extended the house about 20 years ago but the integration between old and new felt a bit compromised,' says Adrienne. 'The house was already quite light, but I wanted it to be even lighter and brighter.' Adrienne and David decided to commission the London-based architects and interior designers, Studio Indigo, to carry out the renovation. 'Mike Fisher showed us his houses in London and Cape Town, and we liked his style,' says Adrienne.

Mike suggested some major structural changes, which Adrienne and David happily agreed to. 'We got rid of the new staircase which was a recent addition,' says Adrienne. 'This enabled us to reconfigure the layout and create a sense of continuity between the old and new areas of the house.' The original staircase was then restored. 'It

DESIGN TIP *'In order to successfully link old and new sections of a property, keep the architectural detailing between the two areas the same if possible'*



1 KITCHEN

This new scheme combines modern and traditional styles and is enhanced by the abundant natural light Adrienne wanted.

Bespoke kitchen by Artichoke. Bontempi Net bar stools, from £260, Go Modern. Try Square XL Lanterns by Original BTC, £1,039, Made In Design

2 HALLWAY/STAIRCASE

The grand main staircase has now been fully restored and light-reflecting Venetian plaster

applied to the walls.

Oak leaf wall light, price on request, Charles Saunders. Joa's White estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball, is a similar wall colour

3 VIEW INTO KITCHEN

Adrienne was keen to integrate antique furniture into the decor. The carved walnut wooden doors, which came from her grandmother's house in Zurich, create dramatic visual impact.

For similar antique carved double wooden doors, try Pamono, from £2,900

DINING AREA
'We use this new space in the sitting room all the time as it gets so much natural light,' says Adrienne.

Oak Leaf chandelier, price on request, Charles Saunders. Castle patterned oak flooring, from £23sq m, Naturally Wood Floors





I



2



3

was rather battered but once we cleaned off the accumulated staining it was glorious,' says Mike.

Creating new spaces overlooking the garden was also a major feature of the rebuild. 'The garden is a decent size for London and shielded by trees,' says Adrienne. 'Mike suggested putting the sitting room at the back of the house, an idea we loved.'

With the structural works complete, Adrienne and David worked closely with Mike to revise the interior decor. The couple were keen to commission hand-crafted items for their home. 'We have several bespoke items, including the headboard in the main bedroom and the console table in the sitting room. 'I love handmade things and it's wonderful to be able to support such talented craftspeople.'

Several statement pieces of furniture were also restored and updated, such as an antique dark wood armoire in the main bedroom which was painted and gilded, and the original glass fronts replaced with mirror panels.

Adrienne also owns various pieces of furniture and artworks inherited from her mother and grandmother, and was keen to integrate these into the decor where possible. 'Our aim was to incorporate Adrienne's and David's fantastically diverse collection of art and antiques into a design that was full of character,' says Mike. 'In that way we hoped not just to preserve the history and memories with which they are associated, but also to bring them back to life and make them relevant once again.' Now that the work is complete, the modernised house has more than fulfilled Adrienne and David's hopes. 'We love living in our new light space,' says Adrienne. 'The whole house now feels much more liveable.' 25

DECORATING TIP *'Create your own style, just as you would with your clothes. Mix and match vintage or inherited furniture with new items to reflect your taste'*



4



5

1 EN SUITE

A shapely freestanding bath makes a bold design statement.

Cabrits freestanding bath, £3,750, Victoria & Albert

2 BEDROOM

The bespoke headboard design was inspired by antique Chinese screens.

Headboard, price on request, Studio Indigo. Walls in Ammonite estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. 1stDibs sells similar antique bamboo side tables

3 EN SUITE

The couple chose a subtle Chinese theme for this elegant space.

Art deco-style bathroom wall lights, £119, Lighting Styles, have this look

4 MAIN BATHROOM

A luxurious double shower enclosure brings the wow factor.

Shower enclosure by Studio Indigo, price on request. Calacatta Honed marble wall tiles, £48sq m, Mandarin Stone, are similar

5 MASTER BEDROOM

All the different patterns make for a vibrant look. Raindrop chandelier, from £2,900, Valerie Wade.

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AN ARTFUL BLEND

A tired Victorian villa has been brought back to life by owners Val Archer and Roger Jupe with thoughtful consideration for the era of the house

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES BALSTON

DINING AREA

The main structural changes were at lower ground floor level, which was lowered by half a metre to create a large kitchen and dining area. 'It's a lovely space for entertaining friends,' says Val. Philippe Starck Romeo S pendant light, £430; Rama chairs, £405 each, all The Conran Shop





HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A four-storey Victorian house built in 1872

LOCATION South London

PURCHASED 1989

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, utility room, WC, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom, artist's studio

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a small terraced house in the same area,' says Val.

KITCHEN

Pale stone flooring with underfloor heating creates a bright and warm space. Cathedral Antique stone floor, price on request, Stone Age



HALLWAY

Val's artwork and Roger's beloved books enhance their home.

Artwork, price on request, Val Archer.
Bookcase painted in Hustle at 5pm, £57.60 for 2.5ltr, Fired Earth



SITTING ROOM
Moody neutral greys dotted with bright cadmium yellow create a sophisticated atmosphere in this elegant space.
 Walls in French Grey absolute matt emulsion, £45 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Regency velvet cushions, £50 for two, Habitat, have this look



SITTING ROOM
'We were determined to find flooring to suit the period of the house. These boards came from a schoolhouse.'
 Pine floorboards, price on request, The British Wood Flooring Company

Having thought that a new kitchen and a lick of paint was all they needed to enhance their Victorian house, artist Val Archer and her husband Roger Jupe then recognised that their beloved home was in need of much more of an overhaul. 'We've lived here for over 30 years and once we started thinking about a new kitchen, it brought to life many of the other changes we needed to make,' explains Roger. 'The house was draughty, the electrics were ancient and the heating inadequate. We'd made improvements when we first moved in, but the decision to renovate the whole house was going to improve our quality of life – especially the prospect of underfloor heating!'

Roger and Val were adamant that the house

should retain its period features and went to great lengths to ensure the house remained authentic. 'We saw several architects with similar ideas but we were looking for someone who would sympathetically merge old with new without resorting to the ubiquitous glass box extension,' remembers Roger. 'Nick Umney from Nick Umney Architectural was recommended to us and he really listened to our brief.'

The renovation, which took a mere nine months, included structural changes to the lower ground floor which was lowered by half a metre and fully tanked. The resulting spacious kitchen and dining area with original flagstone flooring is the hub of this carefully considered, stylish home. 'The basement had always been slightly damp but it was a good space that we wanted to make the



MASTER BEDROOM
‘Storage was an essential part of our renovation and our architect took this on board.’
 Caravaggio wall lights, £240 each, Made In Design. John Lewis & Partners organic cotton knit cushions, £35 each, are a match

most of. We didn’t want to extend the property just for the sake of it, preferring to enhance what we already have,’ explains Val. ‘I’m so pleased with the kitchen and dining area – it’s such a comfortable space.’

The kitchen units are painted in a calming satin green with grey Kerlite tops that extend to cabinets in the dining area. ‘Although we replaced the kitchen windows, we kept the sash style and have a lovely view of the garden,’ says Val. ‘It has a special quality whatever time of day I’m here and it’s light and warm with easy access to my art studio next door.’

Roger’s office, with tall, double-glazed Crittall windows overlooking the garden, has been seamlessly placed on the ground floor alongside the elegant sitting room. Upstairs, the couple have created a large master

bedroom with a dressing area, extensive storage and a light and airy en suite. ‘We spent money on clever storage and bathroom fixtures and fittings as we felt these practical items are important for everyday living,’ says Roger. ‘We also replaced the ceilings, cornices and skirting boards to retain the original feel of the house. I think we are most proud of the floorboards we installed which date back to the 1800s. The British Wood Flooring Company sourced them from an old schoolhouse and they were hand-sanded to maintain their original patina and finished with two coats of wax. They are beautiful.’

With Val’s exquisite paintings adorning the walls and Roger’s beloved books found in nooks and crannies all over the house, this really has been a labour of love for this artistic couple. 25



EN SUITE
A simple, practical bathroom fits neatly into this small space.
 Antiqued limestone floor tiles, price on request, Stone Age. Cotswold rattan baskets, £39 each, The Holding Company

STYLE REVIVAL

Changing the floor plan was the key to creating a family-friendly home for Matteo and Carlotta Braga

FEATURE JULIET BENNING | PHOTOGRAPHY HELENIO BARBETTA/LIVING INSIDE



SITTING ROOM

Keeping the walls free of artwork places emphasis on the beautiful restored wood panelling and chic furnishings.

Round mirrored side table, £54.99, Cherish Home, is similar. Visit City Cows for a wide selection of Moroccan Berber rugs, from £789

DINING AREA

Three pendant lights help to define the dining space within the sitting room.

Aalto Golden Bell brass pendant lights, £418 each, Finnish Design Shop. Table designed by Osvaldo Borsani, see 1stdibs for other tables by the same designer



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A fifth-floor apartment in a 19th-century building

LOCATION The Porta Venezia district of Milan

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room/dining area, kitchen, laundry room, studio, two bedrooms, two bathrooms.

BOUGHT 2017

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a smaller apartment very close to here,' says Matteo.





The apartment Matteo Braga set his sights on very nearly passed him by and, were it not for his wife, Carlotta, the family might have found themselves living elsewhere. With Carlotta expecting their first child Pietro, who is now two years old and has been joined by baby Emma, the couple were eager to find a larger apartment. 'We were looking for about a year before we landed on this one,' says Matteo. 'The owner had a buyer lined up, but when his wife met Carlotta she reminded her of her own daughter. She fell in love with her and decided to sell the apartment to us instead,' he recalls.

The new apartment was a mere few hundred metres from where the family previously lived in the Porta Venezia district of Milan. 'I love this part of the city and I can cycle into the centre in 10 minutes,' says Matteo.

The apartment itself is on the fifth floor of a turn-of-the-century building, and Matteo was impressed by its proportions and the craftsmanship of its original wood panelling. But the property was not without its drawbacks. 'The old-fashioned floor plan wasn't suited to modern family life and the apartment had a dated look,' he explains.

Matteo enlisted the help of his friend, interior designer Barbara Vergnano, who in turn commissioned architecture firm Superluna. By opening up previously boxy, enclosed spaces, a large sitting-dining area was created, two small



KITCHEN

The informal marble-topped breakfast table has views out over the balcony. Rattan and oak bistro chair, £108.50, Maisons du Monde, would work here

KITCHEN

A 1940s brass trolley moves between kitchen and dining area when the couple are entertaining.

Ceramic plates, €75 each, Constantinopoli collection, Les Ottomans. Cray serving trolley, £113.99, Wayfair, is similar



bathrooms became a large bathroom and the kitchen was entirely redesigned. 'In total contrast to the rest, we made it a functional black box in the centre of the apartment with modern digital appliances,' says Matteo.

'The apartment had been decorated in dark yellow shades that I hated. Now it is mostly white and neutral to make an elegant shell for both inherited and new pieces of furniture,' says Matteo. Restoring the original features was a priority for Matteo and Carlotta, and they visited auctions with Barbara to find pieces that would suit the period. Leaving the rooms fairly sparse, the couple wanted the furnishings to have enough space to make an impact. 'We didn't want to fill the place with too many things,' says Matteo. 'We prefer to wait to find pieces that fit perfectly.'

Family time is spent around the little breakfast table and, more surprisingly, in the bathroom. 'We opted for a large bathroom as Carlotta practises yoga in there and the children love bath time. Maybe in the future we will change this, but at the moment we use this room a lot,' he reveals.

The original parquet floor was restored, with Moroccan Berber rugs defining the spaces with delightful softness. Wall panelling has been brought back to its original splendour and is a feature to be admired in its own right. And, like the rest of the eight-month renovation, it deserves to be a great source of pride for Matteo and Carlotta. 25



MASTER BEDROOM
The bed and mid-century light are the focus points of this room, thanks to its minimal scheme. Nabila chandelier, from £1,297, Holloways of Ludlow, is similar. Drawing of Milan by Carlo Stanga

BATHROOM
A long-pile Berber rug brings a playful softness that contrasts with the modern fittings.

Pinecone suspension light by FontanaArte, £1,321, Ambiente Direct

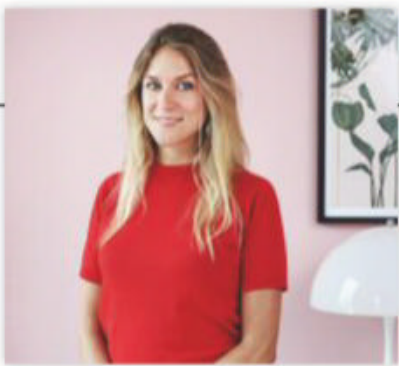


FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY



PIETRO'S BEDROOM

Practical sheet metal furniture will continue to suit Pietro as he gets older. Try Harbour Housewares square floating box shelves, £8.99 for set of three, Rinkit



HOME TRUTHS
THE PROPERTY

Top-floor new-build apartment

LOCATION Linköping,
southern Sweden

ROOMS Hallway, sitting
room, kitchen-diner, studio,
two bedrooms, bathroom

MOVED IN 2017

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I lived in an apartment in
Stockholm,' says Sara.

BEYOND THE PALE

*Sara Garanty's Swedish apartment proves
there is more to colour than meets the eye*

FEATURE SEAN O'CONNELL | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES STOKES/LIVING INSIDE





HALLWAY

Sara's own artwork adds a personal touch here.

Walls in Radicchio and Nancy's Blushes modern emulsion, both £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



KITCHEN-DINER

Pops of bold red ground the pastel hues and bring a modern feel.

For a similar dining table, try the Nordviken, from £299, Ikea. Bistro side chairs would work here, from £143 a pair, Nisbets. Cabinetry painted in Teal Façade eggshell, £16.42 for 500ml, Dulux



SITTING ROOM

Throughout the flat, black accents act as a foil to the daring use of colour.

Bloomingville Rox couch, £1,753, Royal Design. Ace lounge chair, from £750, Normann Copenhagen. The curtain fabric is Spot On Waves, £137.50m, Kirkby Design



SITTING ROOM

'Pink is a social colour,' says Sara. 'It encourages conversation.'

Vilma floor lamp, £1,185, HABA at Pamono

DECORATING ADVICE

‘For consistency, try to plan all the room colour schemes at the same time, not in separate stages’



MASTER BEDROOM

Deeper, restful shades were chosen for the sleep space.

Louis Poulsen AJ wall light, £540, Utility Design. Cord stool, £195, Crooked Concept



STUDIO

‘Light blue walls help you focus,’ says Sara, who also painted a yellow border around the window.

Walls in Stone Blue modern emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Drawer desk, £201, Made In Design. Torso chair, £337, Naken Interiors

Swedish houses are traditionally grey, white and beige – but Sara Garanty clearly plays to her own rules. When she was faced with a top-to-toe renovation of an apartment in Linköping, southern Sweden, Sara, an interior designer/colourist, admits she was never going to stick to pale hues. ‘It was an all-white interior, so it provided the perfect canvas for me,’ she says.

Situated on the sixth floor, the apartment boasts oversized windows that not only give amazing views but result in rooms that are awash with light. When planning the project, Sara began with a concession to tradition. ‘The wooden floors had to stay – they’re very typical of Swedish interiors and very beautiful,’ she says.

Sara says her prime objective was to make her home a friendly environment and

one that takes into consideration the natural function of each space. The hallway is painted in strong colours ‘because this is an area you simply pass through’, says Sara. And sure enough, one effect of the design here is horizontal lines that guide you through, from the sitting room to the master bedroom – a space that is anything but linear. Here, sumptuous bed linen and cushions help create a romantic mood that is enhanced by the dark paintwork.

As a reminder that it is as much about function as form, the simply furnished office space has few unnecessary distractions, with no wall hangings to speak of. But for Sara, originality is important, so you can find little fun touches here and there, such as the yellow border around the window, and, in the

kitchen, primary-coloured dining chairs that ‘add a bit of zing’.

So what does Sara think is the secret of her home’s success? ‘In every room, I’ve added an “ugly” colour that grates with the rest of the scheme, and this has served to create an edgy feel throughout.’ But her favourite room could not be deemed ugly in any sense. ‘I love the sitting room,’ she says. ‘In this very colourful house, I wanted to have an area that had more of a natural feel. This room has an elegance that I think a sociable room like this ought to have.’

But it was others’ reactions that confirmed to Sara that she had achieved something special with this home. ‘Visitors would tell me there was something about the place that made them want to stay,’ she says. ‘Who wouldn’t feel flattered by that?’ 25

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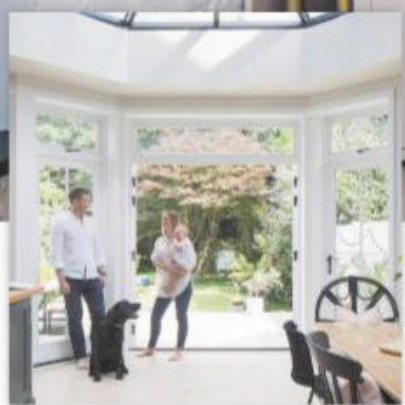
SWOON

Furniture for the home obsessed

LABOUR OF LOVE

Morgan Scott-Murch and her husband Jon worked hard to turn a tired Victorian villa into a beautiful family home

FEATURE MARISHA TAYLOR | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached villa built in 1896

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, living room, kitchen-diner, utility room, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

‘Before moving here, we lived in a flat in Richmond, which we extended from one to two bedrooms,’ says Morgan.

**KITCHEN**

'The new extension is our godsend,' says Morgan. 'The open space means we never feel shut off and we always know what our son Loxley is up to.' Island in Studio Green estate eggshell, £62 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Briston cream bar stools, £39 each, Dunelm

DECORATING ADVICE *‘Use a mixture of mismatched vintage and contemporary-style chairs to add a sense of fun and unique personality to a dining area’*



DINING AREA

The rustic shelves were made from old oak decking boards saved from a skip and brackets bought at an online auction.

Ironwork cut out clock, £195, Cox & Cox. Try the Talia spindle back dining chair in Black, £95, Habitat

SITTING ROOM

Soft green wallpaper and white panelling work harmoniously with the beautiful period features.

Zoffany's Trellis wallpaper in Sage, £75 a roll, would work here. The Croft Collection overmantel mirror in Cream, £199, John Lewis & Partners, is similar





MASTER BEDROOM
Exposed brickwork and a copper bath lend an industrial feel. The classic roll-top freestanding copper boat bath, £3,590, Rubberduck Bathrooms, is a match

Creating their ideal family home became Morgan Scott-Murch and her husband Jon's focus when they decided to leave the leafy suburbs of Richmond in south-west London. 'We were living in a beautiful two-bedroom penthouse flat, but neither of us wanted to raise a family in London,' says Morgan, a project development manager. 'I'd grown up in Kent and had always been fond of Royal Tunbridge Wells with its beautiful architecture, parks and buzzing high street. Plus, it also has great transport links into London.'

The couple decided to focus their search there and it wasn't long before they found a large Victorian villa with a beautiful drive and big back garden. It had been divided into bedsits and had a kitchen on each floor and, aside from running water and heating, it was incredibly outdated. 'It's

not often that properties like that become available and we could see there was huge potential to create something very special, so we couldn't say no,' says Morgan.

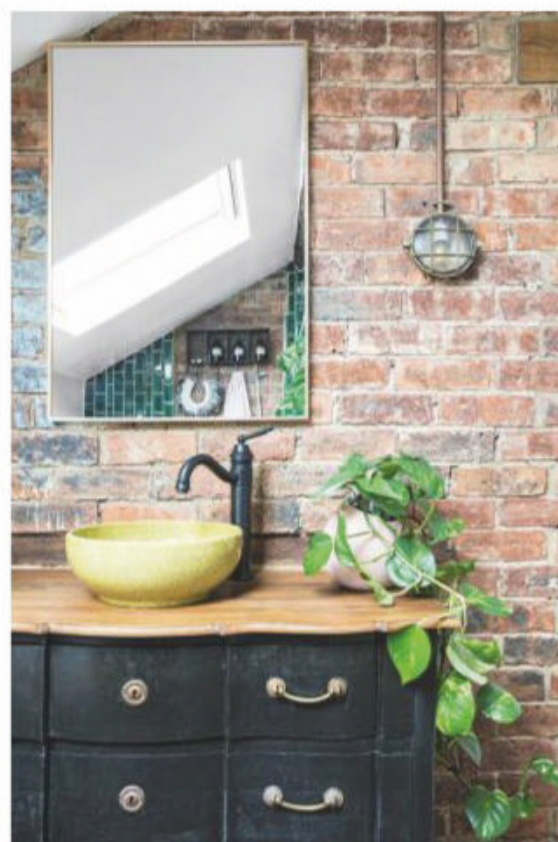
As soon as they moved in, Morgan and Jon started work, project-managing everything themselves and fitting in the work around their full-time jobs. 'It was difficult at times trying to squeeze everything in,' recalls Morgan, 'but we're both used to management and delivery in our jobs and tried to treat it just like another day in the office – arranging our time in the most effective way and managing the work in stages.'

Starting from the top, the couple worked their way down, living in the lower part of the house while they gutted the whole top floor, knocking through the three existing rooms to create a master suite with a bathroom, a dressing room and a bedroom with a decadent,

LESSON LEARNT *'To go with the flow – it took twice as long and cost*



LOXLEY'S BEDROOM
The gold and black painted floor adds a fun touch. Try the Matilda sheer curtains, £17, Ikea



EN SUITE
The tiles have been arranged vertically for a contemporary look. Retro Metro Victoria tiles, £36.96sq m, Tiles Direct

freestanding copper bath. 'We rewired, replumbed, insulated, reboarded and replastered,' says Morgan. 'Just before Christmas, the suite was finally finished. I remember just feeling utterly relieved that I had somewhere I could relax away from the chaos in the rest of the house.'

Building a kitchen-diner extension was the couple's next priority. They designed the layout, asked an engineer to draw up plans and hired builders to construct the shell but, true to form, did everything else themselves. 'Jon and I make a great team,' says Morgan. 'We are both grafters and enjoy the physical work. Jon excels at visualising how something should look, and I'm usually the one who brings those ideas to life in a way that works for us and the house.'

Thankfully, a lot of the work had been completed by the time baby Loxley arrived

early in August 2018 and Jon and Morgan were able to take it easy for a while and enjoy being new parents. 'Over a year on and we are still renovating the house,' says Morgan. 'Only now Loxley is a keen contributor and can often be seen wandering around with a paintbrush in hand. A long maternity leave meant I could work around naps, and we've since found time to refit the family bathroom, create a pretty nursery for Loxley and make a vibrant guest room.'

'We didn't start out with a strict plan, so our style has evolved with our home. We buy what we like and, luckily, it all seems to work. I don't think either of us realised how much the renovation would take over our lives. We have plans for the remaining rooms, but as renovating is something we have come to thoroughly enjoy doing together, we can't wait to get stuck into the next stage.' 25

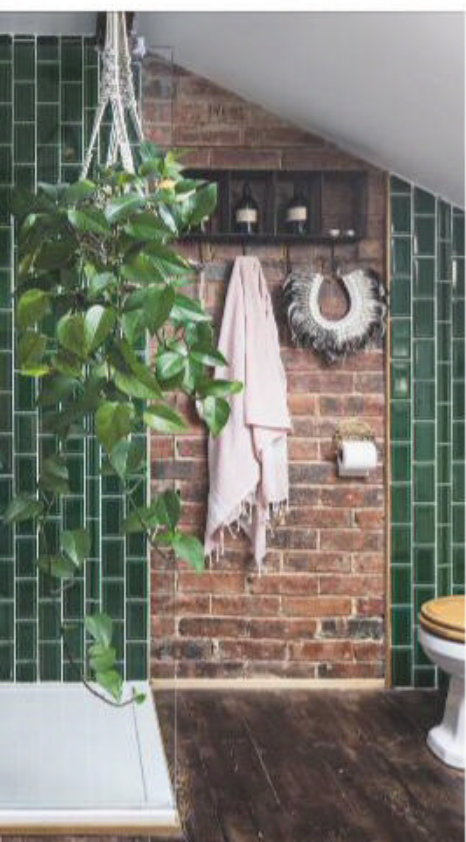


BEDROOM

'We chose a bold colour scheme of yellow, pink and blue, which works brilliantly here,' says Morgan.

Wall in Poetic Pink matt emulsion, £16 for 2.5ltr, Wickes. Bloomingville cushion with tassel edge, £43, Hurn & Hurn

more than we thought to renovate this house compared to our previous flat'



BATHROOM

Wall panelling brings classic style to this space.

For a similar paint colour, try Heritage Sage Green eggshell, £52 for 2.5ltr, Dulux



KITCHEN

'Unlacquered brass brings warmth and depth to this space,' says Trilbey.

Island in Tiffany Blue Amazonite, price on request, The Marble & Granite Centre. Ceramic Planet sells Victorian Blue metro tiles, £24.50sq m. Bloomingville green glass vase is a good match, £43, Amara. Bespoke kitchen cabinetry by 202 Design

Star attraction

This sumptuous renovation of a run-down period terrace is a tribute to the imagination of designer Trilbey Gordon

FEATURE FIONA MCCARTHY | PHOTOGRAPHY KATE MARTIN



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace

LOCATION

North-west London

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, family room/dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'The last house was a detached in north London,' says Trilbey.

DINING AREA
Trilbey designed the brass room dividers to evoke a feeling of Hollywood glamour.

Vintage chairs covered in Navy velvet, price on request, Dedar. Kershaw Plain wallcovering in Lapis Blue, £68 a roll, Nina Campbell, would suit this space. Gino Vistosi chandelier, from £3,230, 1stdibs



DECORATING ADVICE *'Trends come and go so it's important to surround yourself with pieces that mean something to you'*



FAMILY ROOM
Texture and colour combine to create a feast for the senses.

Steel-framed doors, price on request, Crittall. For a zebra-print rug, £120, try The Rug Sellers

HALLWAY
The customised stair carpet provides a spectacular greeting for visitors.

Walls in Oval Room Blue estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For reclaimed oak parquet flooring, from £125sq m, try English Salvage



When Trilbey Gordon was asked by a good friend to take on the interior design of his Victorian terrace in London, it was a chance to unleash her creative flair. After years of being rented out, the house had been stripped of all its detailing, with only the original wooden staircase remaining. 'It was a warren of small rooms and all were featureless and pokey,' says Trilbey. 'The solution was to open up the space and reorganise the rooms. Most importantly, we decided to place the kitchen at the centre of the house.'

The ground floor was largely reconfigured, resulting in a living space at the back of the house comprising a family room with a dining area. Upstairs, the first floor's three bedrooms were given over to a large master bedroom, dressing room and bathroom.

When it came to the decor, Trilbey looked for ways in which she could perfectly reflect the personality of the owner and his two teenage daughters. 'Raw and refined, playful and dramatic, decadent and moody,' were just a few of the ideas that came to mind for fashion writer-turned-interior designer Trilbey. Explaining her inspiration for the 'old school English gentlemen's club meets 1970s playboy chalet in Gstaad' vibe that she has given this period property, she says: 'I wanted it to be sexy and a bit eccentric, elegant but a bit rock 'n' roll.'

The starting point was the main staircase, for which Trilbey cut up a star-spattered rug that she had acquired and then painstakingly applied each piece individually so every stair

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SITTING ROOM

A mix of vintage and modern pieces ensures a unique curated look.

Nimbus pendant, £7,455, CTO Lighting.
Calypso rug by Suzanne Sharp, from
£3,572, The Rug Company. Antiqued
mirror, price on request, Rupert Bevan





MASTER BEDROOM

Vibrant blues offset the strong masculine lines of the bed.

Canton four-poster, £2,010, Lombok.
Alpaca rug, from £1,853, The Rug Company.
Maison Charles lamp, £5,250 for two, Ed Butcher

EN SUITE

Dark hues and a statement tub add to the opulent feel.

Audrey freestanding bath, £3,497, CP Hart.
Abrasio Basalt wall tiles would work here, £18.68 for a 61x61cm tile, Topps Tiles. Try Juniper Ebony porcelain flooring, from £28.56sq m, Mandarin Stone



was different. 'It's the perfect wow factor as soon as you walk into the house,' she enthuses.

To restore the house's character, Trilbey reintroduced some of its lost architectural features. 'I put in the deep cornices and high skirting boards that were right for the house,' she says. She also created a clever flow from dark-stained oak parquet flooring to marble to various rugs, which divide each space into zones without sacrificing its open-plan feel.

When it came to furniture and art, fabrics and finishes, Trilbey had no qualms about mixing up different periods. 'When I walk into a space, I want to feel emotion. I want to see pieces that are interesting and for the room to tell me a story,' she says. So in the front reception room, the library-style bookshelves heave with antique leather and hand-painted cloth-bound books; tucked in-between are pieces of vintage coral, framed butterflies and insects, and old magnifying glasses.

In the kitchen, Trilbey raised the ceiling above the vintage circular light and asked a specialist painter to create a moody sky scene. But underneath it is a real gem – the island. 'I designed it to look like a freestanding piece of furniture and the unlacquered brass brings warmth and depth to the space,' says Trilbey.

Yet for all this home's glamour, Trilbey insists it's still very much a family home. 'It's a 'feet up, lounging around' kind of house,' she says. 'Nothing's too precious, nowhere is out of bounds. With its mix of tactile materials, big sofas and warm metals, you can't help but get into the mood of the house. It seduces you.' 25

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Classic beauty

Stephen and Clare Pardy's lovingly transformed home is a haven of understated style and serenity

FEATURE JANET MCMEEKIN | PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL

STUDY/BOOK ROOM
A Bristol blue glass decanter on the windowsill draws the eye and gives depth to this elegant space, which centres on a Regency leather-topped mahogany table. Candelabra, price on request, Calmels Design. Similar wine decanter, £95, The Original Bristol Blue Glass



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Georgian townhouse built in 1794

LOCATION South London

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study/book room, utility room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 1996

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a Victorian semi in south London,' says Stephen.

Tucked away in a leafy corner of one of London's most attractive and architecturally unspoilt squares lies a beautifully curated home that exudes a timeless quality. Today, the interior of this Georgian townhouse bears no resemblance to the lacklustre dwelling that languished on the market until Clare and Stephen Paridy stepped in to rescue it.

Lured by the charms of the square, the discerning house-hunters stumbled across the property in 1996. Wasting no time, they set up a viewing and, unlike many others who had shunned the dated house, this creative couple were unfazed by what they found. 'It was undeniably grim and, in fact, rather primitive in parts,' says Stephen, an experienced renovator. 'However, rather than dwelling on the negatives, Clare and I could only see opportunities.' The Pardys bought the four-storey

house, recognising that a wealth of beautiful period features lay dormant behind the swathes of nondescript paint, woodchip wallpaper and other unimaginative 1970s alterations.

Gleaning inspiration from the intimate Kettle's Yard house and gallery in Cambridge, Stephen and Clare had a vision to create a welcoming, harmonious home with a simple, almost Shaker-like interior. As the year-long building project started, heavy 1950s casement windows were replaced with elegant sashes, original wooden floorboards repaired and all traces of the 1970s incarnation unceremoniously discarded.

Paying homage to the house's heritage, Stephen designed and installed cabinets, bookcases, panelling, window shutters, fire surrounds and architraves to inject detail and enhance visual interest. When it came to choosing colours, atmospheric hues of cream, grey and white were

SITTING ROOM

With its mix of pieces from different periods, this scheme exemplifies the couple's style.

Oban extra-large mirror, £350, Oka, has this look





KITCHEN

This hard-working scullery area has a large Belfast sink, generous cupboards and shelving and an integrated dishwasher.

Belfast sink, £363, Shaws of Darwen, is similar

LAST WORD *‘Most of what we’ve bought isn’t of enormous value but, instead, they are beautiful pieces that speak to us – I guess you could call it controlled eclecticism’*

specialty mixed by Papers and Paints to become a subtle background against which the Pardys’ cherished collections of pictures, ceramics and sculptures have been thoughtfully displayed.

Clare and Stephen have relished sourcing paintings and objects for their refurbished home. ‘We have a particular aesthetic, which means that things from completely different periods tend to work well together,’ says Clare, an art historian, who works for Hallett Independent Art and Heritage Insurance.

As much as the Purdys loved their house, after most of the less attractive features were replaced, the limitations of the small galley kitchen came to light. So in 2016, Clare set Stephen the challenge of transforming the cellar into a bright kitchen-diner. ‘In years gone by, the two rooms of the cellar were only ever used as a coal-hole, a wash house and, briefly, an air-raid shelter,’ Stephen says. ‘When we moved here, this gloomy basement with its limited head height served as a useful space for storage and appliances.’

Bringing the couple’s vision for a light-filled, classic farmhouse-style

space to fruition has been no mean feat, requiring underpinning the whole building, removing the dividing cellar wall and dropping the level of the floor by 30 centimetres. A window and light well have been enlarged and French windows installed. ‘What used to be our dining room is now a study and book room and the former kitchen is a utility room,’ says Clare.

‘Our new kitchen-diner, with its large table, works incredibly well,’ she adds. ‘For me, being Welsh, the South Walian dresser is definitely the *pièce de résistance*. These days, entertaining is informal and spontaneous. The new layout has changed the way we live and how we use our whole home.’

The Pardys’ serendipitous find has been transformed into a fascinating home that reflects their passions, personalities and shared memories; every object has a story to tell. ‘A lot of thought has gone into each decision,’ says Stephen. ‘Clare and I have taken it gently and feel that by doing so, we’ve created a home we adore – one that echoes the past but is also perfect for modern-day living.’ 25

DINING AREA

The sycamore-topped table, designed by Stephen, is a light, modern contrast to the antique furnishings. The Cobb Rise & Fall large pendant light, £245, Original BTC, would work here



BATHROOM

The neat wooden rim around the bath creates a handy shelf and helps to break up the white scheme, with framed prints and blue glass adding colour hits

MASTER BEDROOM

A contemporary silkscreen print and geometric quilt add colour and pattern to this simply styled space.

Lemon and Birds 2002 silkscreen print by Craigie Aitchison, price on request, Advanced Graphics London





SITTING ROOM

Painting the fireplace and bare brickwork a darker grey works well with the light-grey walls.

Fire surround painted in Aged Black eggshell wood and metal, £69 for 2.5ltr, Atelier Ellis. Descartes sofa, from £710; Valentin footstool, from £260; both Sofa.com



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A Victorian maisonette

LOCATION North London

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room/dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2018

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I was renting a small one-bedroom flat in Notting Hill,' says Julie.

VIVE LA DIFFERENCE

Being in a vibrant central location was top of Parisienne Julie Scotto's wish list when buying her first home in the UK

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | PHOTOGRAPHY FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT



DINING AREA
Velvet chairs and an elegant pendant create a modern look.

Beetle velvet chairs with brass legs, £1,041 each, The Conran Shop. Joule 4 pendant light, £369, Heal's

When Julie Scotto first came to the UK from France on a university exchange programme, she never imagined she'd still be here 20 years later.

Having rented in Notting Hill for 10 years, Julie wanted to buy a place where she could walk or cycle to her office on the Strand where she works as a finance lawyer.

Since Notting Hill was out of her price range, she looked to Islington where she'd lived as a student. 'Although I considered up-and-coming trendy areas in south London, there's so much going on around here and I like being close to the canal,' she says.

After viewing around 20 different properties over two years, losing out to higher bidders and becoming

despondent with the quality of housing, Julie finally found a three-bedroom maisonette with a roof terrace.

'I was really looking for somewhere with everything on one floor, although I wasn't too concerned about having outside space, but I was so pleased to find an older property because it was mostly new builds within my price range,' she says. 'I do enjoy having a maisonette now.'

Julie hired interior designers Nina Maklin and Sam Watkins McRae to remodel and redecorate the space, while she continued renting. A key task of the project was reconfiguring the top floor to provide a walk-in wardrobe by taking part of the footprint of the second bedroom.

Knocking the second and third bedrooms together has opened up the guest bedroom to give the feel of a smart

KITCHEN
 Located just off the sitting room, the cook space has sleek units that were painted the same colour as the walls in order to blend into the background. Hatton 3 pendant light, £269, Original BTC at The Conran Shop



HALLWAY
 New short-block parquet flooring creates a smart, streamlined effect. Short-block unfinished character parquet flooring, from £30sq m (trade price), Havwoods

FUTURE PLANS *'Next, I want to replace the bedroom windows as I could only afford to do the sitting room, and by summer I'd like to remodel the terrace to create a cosy space'*

boutique hotel suite with study area. 'I did consider putting a second bathroom up there,' says Julie. 'But it would've required new pipework and been quite costly, so the walk-in wardrobe won. It was more important to me, as my clothes were pouring from every corner in my old flat.'

A new unfinished short-block parquet flooring was also laid throughout, and stained on site. 'Although the existing flooring was in good condition, it was too dark,' says Julie. 'Sam looked into having it lightened but you can only strip down engineered wood so far, and it was a similar price to replace it completely.'

Luckily the existing kitchen units were fairly new, but the dated bathroom needed a complete overhaul. 'I replaced the bath with a large walk-in shower,' says

Julie. 'I'm more of a shower person and the space wasn't really big enough for both.'

Throughout the apartment Julie has opted for a classic look with a few twists. 'I didn't want it to look like a show home,' she says. 'So I've mixed in some antique furniture and artwork collected on my travels to make it more cosy.'

Having entered into the renovation work thinking she only needed a project manager, Julie came to realise the importance of Sam and Nina's expertise. 'Although I had strong ideas, their guidance was invaluable and they often suggested other options I hadn't thought about,' says Julie.

It may have taken her several years to take the plunge, but now Julie has a characterful home that would be easy to rent out in future should she ever chose to move on. 25

**MASTER
BEDROOM**
Colour-rich
accessories evoke
an arty feel.

La Volière birdcage
pendant, £410,
Mathieu Challières
at The Conran Shop



BATHROOM
Pink encaustic
floor tiles gave
the room a fun
new direction.

Marrakech Design
Dandelion tiles in
Old Rose/White,
£159sq m, Tiles Etc



BEDROOM
This space also
doubles up as a
home office.

For a similar 1960s
vintage writing desk, try
After Noah. Beetle
velvet chair with brass
legs, £1,041, The
Conran Shop



BEDROOM
Julie was keen to
create a calm, restful
space for guests.

Walls in Thread Needle
marble matt emulsion,
£51 for 2.5ltr, Mylands.
Rosalie kingsize
ottoman bed in Lagoon,
£1,292, Sofa.com





SITTING ROOM

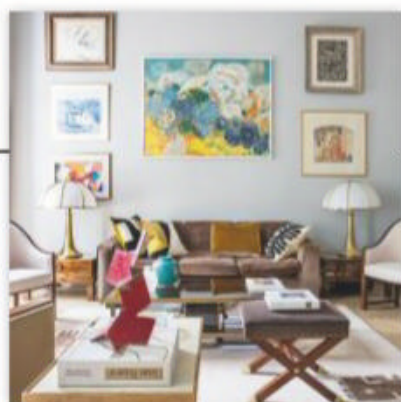
Richard's passion for collecting vintage pieces is at the heart of this bright, lofty space.

Coffee table, Maison Jansen; armchairs, Pierre Chareau and Maurice Jallot; stool, Paul Dupré-Lafon; try 1stdibs for similar vintage designs. Parquet flooring, from £180sq m, Walking on Wood

CAPITAL GAINS

Moving closer to work brought Richard de Ville an unexpected bonus – the perfect backdrop for his mid-century art and furniture

FEATURE JILL SHEARER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

One-bedroom apartment in a Victorian house

LOCATION Central London

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room/dining area, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom

PURCHASED 2015

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I moved here from a flat in Notting Hill,' says Richard.

It was the location that first drew Richard de Ville to this apartment in a quiet residential corner close to the River Thames. Living in west London and working in Westminster, Richard was finding the crowded daily commute to his office more and more uncomfortable. His friend, an artist and designer, suggested that he try looking in Pimlico, where many of the Victorian houses had been divided into flats yet retained their large windows and high ceilings, so were more spacious and light than similar properties in other parts of town. 'I thought if I move here I'll be able to walk to work,' Richard says.

At just 50 square metres, the apartment was compact, but it had a well-planned layout that made it look considerably larger. A previous owner had added false ceilings to create additional storage, though, and it took a little imagination to see beyond the wrinkly red carpets and faded decor. But once the false ceilings had been removed, Richard realised that there would be plenty of wall space to display his growing collection of mid-century art. Tall windows looked onto leafy plane trees at the front, and there was a patchwork of well-tended gardens at the back. 'Another bonus,' Richard notes with delight.

Working with the existing layout, Richard and his designer friend devised a decorative scheme to transform the space into a comfortable, stylish home. Clever details, such as the monochrome



DINING AREA
A mid-century dining table by Charlotte Perriand defines the dining zone in a corner of the sitting room.

KITCHEN
The cleverly configured, streamlined units make the most of the compact space.

The cabinets are painted with a gloss finish in the same shade as the walls and a beautiful grey-veined marble splashback unites the scheme.

For a similar paint colour, try Steel V oil gloss, £35 for 750ml, Paint & Paper Library. Lapidica sells

similar Arabescato Altissimo marble, price on request

HALLWAY
Tall strips of mirrored glass bounce light around this corridor that leads to the kitchen and bathroom and runs between the sitting room and bedroom.





BEDROOM
Ample storage is provided by floor-to-ceiling shelves at either side of the bay window and custom-made panelled wardrobes (below). All are painted in the same grey as the walls, which makes an elegant backdrop for a display of

old framed photographs illuminated by a pair of 1940s glass wall lights. For similar art deco lights, try Raydon fluted glass wall light in nickel plate, £177.60, Jim Lawrence. Athens Merino lambswool throw in Beige, £95, Amara, has this look

BATHROOM
A terracotta bas-relief plaque by 20th-century French sculptor René Iché provides a striking contrast to the cool marble tones in this timeless scheme. FS washbasin, £780, Czech & Speake. Arcade swivel mirror, £249, Drench, is similar



INSPIRATION
'The "London grey" colour palette suits the climate and, alongside the beautiful light wood flooring, creates a calm and restful feel throughout'

palette and high-level window between the kitchen and bathroom, which had no window of its own, maximised the natural light and gave the apartment a sense of cohesion. Richard engaged a contractor to carry out the work and oversaw the project. His preference was for clean, masculine lines and a modern, almost transatlantic feel, although having grown up in France, he was also influenced by his French heritage.

The beautiful parquet flooring throughout is a nod to his native land. Taking measurements from the wood blocks in his family home, Richard commissioned the bespoke design from flooring specialist Walking on Wood. Rather than curtains for the lofty windows, he opted for sleek painted shutters – another echo from across the Channel.

All around the apartment are elegant art deco pieces – a mixture of American and European designs from the 1930s and 1940s – while colourful abstract paintings from the mid 20th-century adorn the walls. Numerous books about architecture and art – on the mantelpiece, shelves and coffee tables – bear witness to Richard's passion for this period. Even the narrow hall acts as a showcase: tall strips of mirrored glass provide a backdrop for sculptures and paintings propped casually against the walls.

The art deco aesthetic extends to the kitchen, in the form of chic French handles on glossy grey cabinetry, and to the bathroom, where the stylish pedestal basin set against cool marble tiles is reminiscent of a glamorous ocean liner.

The abundant natural light, simple yet sophisticated palette, stylish artwork and leafy outlook all combine to create a calm, elegant atmosphere. And with just a short stroll to the office each day, Richard has managed to create the perfect haven for life in the heart of the busy capital city. **25**



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KITCHEN-DINER

Bright splashes of gold offset the deep tones of the timber flooring, feature wall and near-black veneer cabinetry.

Interior design by Leivars Interiors Studio. Miniforms Maggese dining table, £2,160, Go Modern. Venice dining chair, from £373, Luxdeco; in Paco, £61m, Nobilis. Bespoke artwork, Pictoclub. Ultra 8 pendant, £3,430, Le Deun. Bespoke cabinetry in Kronospan Carbon Marine wood, Dominic Ash



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Contemporary new build

LOCATION Surrey

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/family room, study, playroom, cloakroom, utility room, boot room, five bedrooms (two en suite), two bathrooms

BUILT 2018

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before, we owned a terraced house in Chelsea,' says Layla.

BOLD ambition

Punchy colours and oversized pieces capitalise on the grand proportions of Layla and Ian McDowell's self-built home

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH



With its generously sized rooms and abundance of sumptuous seating, Layla and Ian McDowell's new-build house exudes a relaxed and welcoming feel. 'Having a sociable home was really important to us,' says Layla. 'We wanted it to be a place where our six-year-old twin daughters could run around with their friends, or Ian could have 20 people over to watch the football.'

Layla and Ian, who are both international lawyers, had spent a number of years residing in Hong Kong before returning to the UK in 2015. 'We'd been living in a terraced house in Chelsea before we moved abroad, but having our girls changed our perspective; we wanted a less urban lifestyle,' says Layla. The couple immediately

saw the potential in a plot of land on the edge of an attractive Surrey village. 'The 1930s house on the site was extremely run down and we learnt that it wouldn't be complicated to obtain permission to demolish it and start again,' Layla recalls. The other great boon, for keen cricketer Ian in particular, was that the house borders a cricket club. So no time was wasted in appointing Alan Higgs Architects to design a contemporary home that was carefully oriented to maximise the views of the garden and the cricket ground beyond. Huge glazed doors and skylights pull natural light into the interiors, while the open-plan layout creates a fantastic sense of flow.

The couple had brought very little furniture with them from Hong Kong, and they quickly realised that furnishing such large



SITTING ROOM
'Just as the furniture needed to be scaled up to suit the size of the rooms, so did the artwork,' explains Layla.
 Framed sea fans, from £315 each, Hannah Brown Interiors. Wall in Cadet Blue oil based eggshell, £32 for 1ltr, Sanderson at Style Library. Ottomans made to Rebecca Leivars' design by Daniel Fowler Upholstery

FAVOURITE FEATURE
'I love the pendant lights throughout the house – they're beautiful and sculptural and, most importantly, they don't vie with the views outside'



HALLWAY
Pops of red and gold enhance the contemporary grey backdrop.
 Petite Friture Black Vertigo pendant light, £895, Holloways of Ludlow. Jupiter Rectangle mirrors, £1,680 each, Amode. Bespoke Monaco GP artwork, Pictoclub



MASTER BEDROOM
Different wall finishes bring cosiness and intimacy to this generous, vaulted space. Jesse Nimbo super-king size bed, from £3,000; Jesse Feel bedside cabinet in matt Ostrica, £380, all Go Modern



STAIRCASE
The sleek iron balustrade strikes a graphic note. Architecture, Alan Higgs Architects



CLOAKROOM
Colourful LED lighting picks out the hues of the pretty wallpaper. Butterflies wallpaper in Grey, £240 a roll, Timorous Beasties

rooms required a certain skill set. ‘Standard-sized pieces easily disappear in the rooms, so it was a question of thinking big,’ says Layla, who made the decision to seek professional help with this task. ‘We realised that an experienced designer would really enhance this house – and help us avoid making costly mistakes. At first we commissioned Rebecca Leivars to design just the sitting room but once we saw her proposals, we asked her to help us decorate the entire ground floor, as well as the master bedroom. She came up with ideas that we would never have entertained ourselves.’

One of Rebecca’s more left-field proposals was the idea to paint the back wall of the sitting room a rich blue in a high-gloss finish. ‘Ian took some convincing with that one,’ laughs Layla, ‘but the effect was

transformative. It bounced the light back into what is a very deep room, bringing the space to life.’ While the couple erred towards a predominantly neutral palette, Rebecca suggested complementing muted greys and blues with autumnal tones such as mustard, tobacco and burnished gold, which pop against the greenery outside. Another brave choice was the moody, dark wood kitchen units.

The pair are delighted that they were encouraged to be bold, and towards the end of the project they were even coming up with daring ideas of their own. Ian suggested that we should paint the niche behind the dining table black to tie in with the kitchen,’ Layla recounts. ‘I think that’s when Rebecca and I knew we had truly won him over – now he loves the strong statements as much as I do.’ 25



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SEASIDE SPECIAL

A love of architectural detail and mid-century design combine to stunning effect in Fred Musik's home by the beach

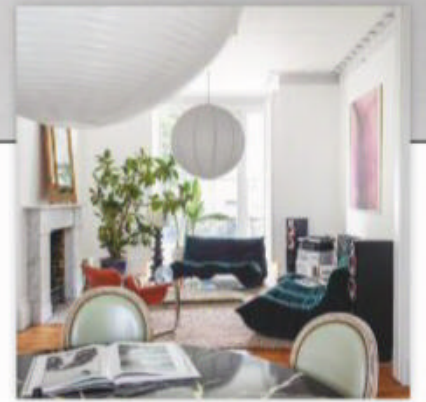
FEATURE JULIE SHERIDAN | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



DINING AREA

A round table and low hanging lantern create an intimate, relaxed mood. 'My mother used these large paper shades and so they will always remind me of family,' says Fred.

Arkana Tulip table, £550, M Goldstein.
Hay rice paper shade, from £20, Utility



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Four-storey, mid-terrace townhouse built in 1857

LOCATION East Sussex

ROOMS Hallway, two reception rooms, two kitchens, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, two cellars

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I lived for eight years in a small Victorian semi in Haywards Heath,' says Fred.



SITTING ROOM

Fred made the coffee table himself using an MDF base and mirrored glass that he had cut to size.

Ligne Roset Togo sofa, £2,828, Heal's.

Arkana mid-century leather sling chair, £425; Napoleon III mirror, £800, both Digs.

Jute rug in Terra Beige, £144.95, Benuta



FAVOURITE ROOM

'The kitchen, with all its colours and textures. I cook every day so it's naturally become more "me" than the other rooms'



With his magpie eye for the beautiful and bizarre, designer

Fred Musik can spot a treasure-in-the-making from a hundred paces. Raised by an interior designer mother who was 'filling the family home with cane and willow furniture before it became fashionable' and a car mechanic father 'who can pretty much make anything', his style is eclectic and his methods delightfully gung-ho. Candlesticks have been rescued from skips and a fibreglass bust of David came back from Sydney in Fred's luggage. As a result, he has a lot of pieces and needed a house big enough to showcase his collection.

In a rare stroke of luck, Fred found a dream doer-upper in one of the wide, elegant roads off the seafront in Hove. 'It had been owned by the same family since it was built in the 1850s but had been empty for six years and was looking a little tired and unloved,' says Fred.

PERSONAL PROJECT

Having spent years working on commercial and residential design projects, Fred was happy to manage the renovations himself, working with a team of contractors. He set up an office downstairs and started the process of stripping back, rewiring and replumbing. 'At one

KITCHEN

'This scheme was inspired by a celebrity homes show on TV, which showed a house with a really cool lilac kitchen,' says Fred. 'I found a kitchen company that offered a custom colour service to make the units in this shade.'

Cabinetry, price on request, Leicht. Stainless steel worktops, from £270lin m, MPM Engineering. Fisher & Paykel oven, £1,599, John Lewis & Partners. French-style velvet sofa (just seen), £750, Sunbury Antiques Market

HALLWAY

Fred used his favourite dark-grey paint for the staircase banisters to give them an aged, cast iron look. Banisters in Madison Grey eggshell, £56 for 2.5ltr, Abigail Ahern. Graham and Green's gold palm tree chandelier, £398, would also look good in this setting. Antique ballet school mirror, £3,500, M Goldstein

point, I remember looking back through the hallway where the floorboards had been taken up and the walls had been damaged from the rewiring and thinking I'd taken on this huge house and promptly wrecked it,' he says.

Fortunately, under the old carpets the house had decent floorboards, which simply needed to be sanded and stained, and the upstairs rooms had handsome cast stone fireplaces which re-emerged after several layers of paint were stripped off. 'Sometimes I felt like an artisan working on the Sistine Chapel as I spent hours on the most painstaking tasks,' Fred jokes.

LABOUR OF LOVE

One job he hesitated over before taking the plunge was the removal of the textured wallpaper covering the entire four-storey hallway. 'I took it inch by inch, day by day, week by week,' he remembers. Another onerous task was the kitchen floor, which was originally briefed out to a specialist contractor who gave up halfway through. 'The plan was to use an Italian method of laying polished concrete flooring where you add thin layers of different-coloured cement and sand in places to create an abstract design,' explains Fred. 'When the flooring guy gave up, I did it myself but managed to get through two



BEDROOM

'I found this colour scheme on Alexa de Castilho's Instagram page and asked if she wouldn't mind me copying her,' says Fred. 'It's so different from my usual style.'

Hempy jute rug, £299, La Redoute.
Type 75 desk lamp, £165, Anglepoise.

The beanbag is from Vine Street Vintage; try the designer velvet retro classic beanbag, £79.99, GreatBeanBags

CLOAKROOM

Pages from Fred's favourite magazines have been used to create colourful wallpaper.

Try the leopard print toilet seat, £25, Argos. The 30cm fabric lantern, £8.99, Oriental World, is a good alternative

BEDROOM

A vibrant artwork brings colour to this otherwise neutral scheme.

Painting by BJ Broekhuisen. Gjora birch bed frame, £199, Ikea





DECORATING TIP

'If in doubt, paint a room white. You can come back to it if you have that colour epiphany'

sanding machines and two days of labour before I achieved the result.'

The bare bones of the house were finished with litres of white paint and smart fixtures and fittings. 'It's a good idea to spend money on things you touch every day like taps and light switches,' says Fred. In some cases, he was also willing to go to great lengths to achieve what he wanted. Having found an original pull handle on one of the sash windows and failing to find anything similar online, he had a bulk order made in India so that there were enough for the whole house. 'I've been selling the remainder ever since,' he says.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Fred likes a house to feel it has come together naturally, is intimate and well worn. African artefacts, plants, crystals and carefully chosen artworks appear in every room.

Fred's favourite furniture is mid-century, although he is not precious if he feels design classics could do with embellishment. 'I've painted so many things, such as my Tulip table, which started out white and is now black, and even my new marble fireplaces, which I felt didn't have quite enough marbling,' says Fred. 'We're all so afraid of getting something wrong design-wise but in your own home you don't have to answer to anyone.' 25

BATHROOM

'I removed the old wallpaper from the ceiling and quite liked the ghost pattern it left behind, so I didn't bother painting it,' says Fred.

Dartrey Rhombus tiles, £79.92sq m, Topps Tiles. Vitra Eames DSW chair, £375, Utility. H&M Home sells striped towels, from £4.99 each. The storage unit with glass shelves (far left) is an old optician's cabinet from the Czech Republic; the Industriel metal grille cabinet, £549, Tikamoon, would also look good here. For a similar wall clock, try the Putney large black station clock, £100, Newgate. Faux Boston fern plant, £24.95, Trouva

MASTER BEDROOM

A chinoiserie screen bought for £40 in the local Friday ads became a focal point in this scheme.

Find a similar room divider at 1stdibs, from £2,500. Try the Primrose chair in Mustard velvet, £109, Cult Furniture



ARTISTIC TRUTHS

Check out The Connor Brothers' compelling new limited-edition prints, available to buy online exclusively at runway-gallery.com

The Connor Brothers burst on to the art scene in 2013 under the guise of Missouri-born twins, Franklyn and Brendan Connor, raised within a secret cult, which they escaped from at the age of 16. Their art, they explained, came about as they tried to make sense of a world they'd been deprived of. Two years later, the truth came out – the pair, Mike Snelle and James Golding – are, in fact, childhood friends based in Hackney. Their latest pieces, shown here, were created in collaboration with *25 Beautiful Home's* parent company TI Media and Runway Gallery. Here, they tell us more.

HOW DID YOUR STYLE COME ABOUT?

It's a mix of philosophical insight and dark humour. We both share troubled pasts. [Mike has suffered from severe depression while James has battled anxiety and addiction.] We moved in together in 2012, during which time we talked about difficult personal things. We began making collages out of counter-cultural comics from the 70s and Mills & Boon covers. It was a distraction; we were making each other laugh.

HOW DID THE CONNOR BROTHERS PSEUDONYM TAKE SHAPE?

It was initially developed to shield us from the public glare. When we finally broke cover and revealed our true identities, we were able to use The Connor Brothers' name to highlight issues surrounding mental health and other topics close to our hearts, from working with refugees to becoming ambassadors for the charity, CALM. There's something about expressing yourself and trying to connect with others through art that feels meaningful, it's like therapy for us.

SHARE YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS...

We actually never set out to be artists at all, but when we started working together there was a natural synergy between us. Ideas start as conversations. Normally we will talk about something, and then that distils



into a single concept. Only after that will we look for an image. It comes secondary to the words – witty texts that capture the preoccupations of the millennial world.

WHAT SUBJECTS INSPIRE YOU?

We like to explore the boundaries between truth and fiction, and raise questions about how we construct meaning from experience. We have ongoing themes we're interested in – prison reform, addiction and mental health, to name a few.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR RECENT COLLABORATION WITH TI MEDIA

It was a fascinating process. We were invited to plunder the company's archives to find images we could refashion to create two new prints. We tended to focus on illustrations that had been put into print using lithography; there's something more real, more visceral, maybe, about this style.

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO DISPLAY ART?

Artwork should express something about the owner as well as the artist, so try not to follow trends. We love the cluttered old salon-style displays, where art is mixed and matched from floor to ceiling.

ANY ADVICE FOR SOMEONE LOOKING TO INVEST IN ART?

Always buy what you like, but it's worth doing some homework and checking auction records so you understand the market. Emerging artists we're currently obsessed with include German painter Oskar Rink; she's quite special.

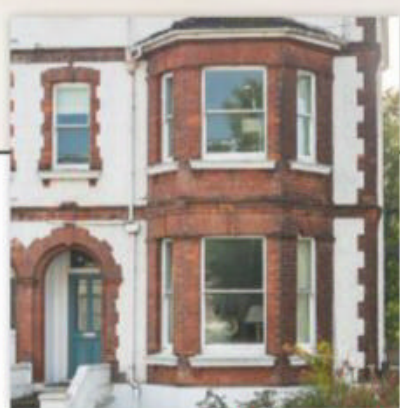
The Connor Brothers' exclusive new limited-edition prints in collaboration with TI Media and Runway Gallery are available to buy now at runway-gallery.com. There are only 25 of each print available so head online to secure yours now. 25

COMING NEXT MONTH... Brighton-based artist Simone Webb uses a mix of traditional and modern methods to create her ethereal flora and fauna artworks inspired by the fleeting beauty found in nature.

SALVAGE experts

Respecting its Victorian heritage, Jules and Oliver Haines gave their terrace personality with recycled pieces

FEATURE STEPHANIE SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Victorian end-of-terrace house

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hallway, kitchen-diner/living area, sitting room, four bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2017

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a three-bedroom Victorian terrace house in south-west London,' says Jules.



KITCHEN-DINER

The space was given a temporary new look by adding grey woodgrain film to the existing Ikea units. A reclaimed French ceiling tile features on the island.

Grey woodgrain film, £10 a roll, B&Q. Reclaimed ceiling tile, £15, Room Seven Interiors

SITTING ROOM

'A carpenter created the built-in shelving and I decided to be bold with the colour,' says Jules.

Bookshelves painted in Blazer estate eggshell, £62 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball





Moving out of London to gain more living space and a bigger garden was Jules and Oliver Haines' aim when they started looking for a new house nearly three years ago. 'We'd identified Tunbridge Wells as a possibility as we didn't want to be right out in the countryside,' says Jules. 'It is a sizeable town with good transport links, which was important as Oliver needs to travel in his job as a business development manager.'

The four-storey Victorian property ticked all the boxes, and they moved in two years ago with their children, Edward, now four, and Jemima, two. The house itself was just what

they wanted: in need of care and attention, but not in a bad structural state. 'We couldn't have taken on a complete wreck, but I knew we could do a lot to this property and make it our own quite quickly,' says Jules.

She describes her distinctive style as contemporary heritage, and she is a huge fan of buying secondhand furniture and recycling and reusing. 'It actually pains me to buy things new, but on the other hand I will occasionally invest in a few pieces that will last,' she says.

Jules' ethos of sustainable living extends to her business, Haines Collection. With a background in textiles, she has started an online company selling leftover designer fabric,

BEDROOM

The spectacular wall hanging is a folding African hat called a Juju. Jules made the lampshades using fabric available on her website.

Grace Juju, £195, Mukala Africa. Similar bed frame, £545, Button & Sprung. Art cushion, £65, Sabina Pieper. Lamp bases, £25 each, Aldi. Tray tables, £19.99 each, Tesco

JEMINA'S BEDROOM

'I adore the old school desk with matching chairs that I found on Facebook Marketplace for just £25, and I've framed a series of animal prints above it,' says Jules.

Prints, £20 each, Tipperleyhill. Frames, £8 each, B&Q

DESIGN TIP *'Don't be afraid to buy secondhand – I much prefer breathing new life into items I find in charity shops or at antiques fairs'*

which can be anything from end-of-print runs to offcuts or material with slight faults.

When it came to replanning her new home, Jules enlisted the help of Danecia Scheepers of Uplift Your Home. Danecia's advice was particularly useful in the kitchen. Because the couple eventually want to extend, they didn't want to replace the tired kitchen units so

Danecia suggested some simple changes to reinvigorate the space in the meantime.

After painting the whole house in an off-white, Jules added bursts of colour and a mix of pieces from small businesses, charity shops and recycling websites, 'I am so happy with how everything has turned out,' says Jules. 'The house really does feel like it's ours now.' 25

EN SUITE

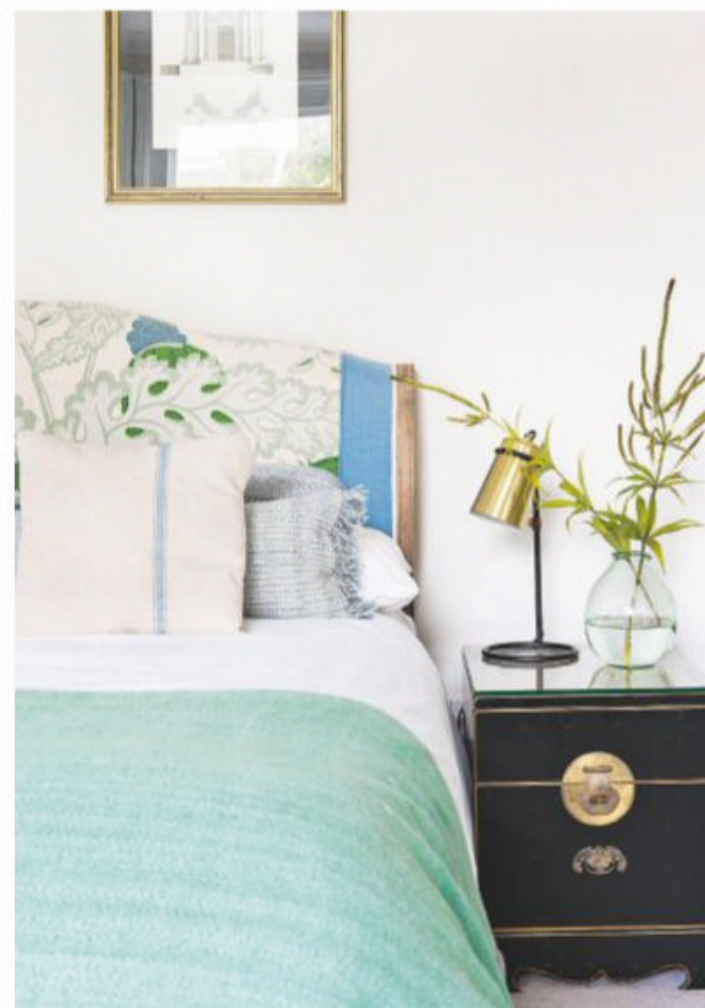
'I wanted a Moroccan look for our bathroom,' says Jules.

Optiks floor tiles, £60sq m, Topps Tiles. Basin, £160, Etsy

MASTER BEDROOM

Jules reupholstered the headboard in one of her offcut fabrics.

Cushions, £55 each, Shiv Textiles



TIMELESS VISION

With great dedication, Fabienne and Thierry Vandamme have turned their run-down 19th-century Belgian farmhouse into a unique family home

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY CORINE HOGE
BAVEL-JANSEN/COCO FEATURES



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1860s farmhouse

LOCATION

East

Flanders, Belgium

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, snug, kitchen-diner, utility, WC, study, three bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a 1930s art deco house nearby,' says Fabienne.

DINING AREA

Pretty floral curtains and a buttoned chair encapsulate Fabienne's romantic style.

Provence Toile linen in Raspberry is a similar fabric, £75m, Cabbages & Roses. Try the Hound Dog armchair, from £745, Loaf. Have a look at the Scissor Merton wall light, £123, Tinsmiths

**SITTING ROOM**

New openings were knocked into the wall to help draw light into this space, which is furnished with simple contemporary pieces. Try the Vimle two-seat sofa in Tallmyra Beige, £475, Ikea. Linen hemp cushions, from £28, Maison Brocante, have a similar look



KITCHEN-DINER

The bespoke oak cabinets topped with Belgian blue stone worktops reflect the couple's love of timeless design.

Oak cabinets in the Henley range by Neptune are similar. MKW Surfaces supplies Belgian Blue worktops

I had always dreamt of living in an old farmhouse,' says Fabienne Vandamme of the 1860s building she and her husband, Thierry, spent four years painstakingly renovating. Situated in the centre of a small village outside of Ghent, the house is in typical Belgian rural style, built in the form of a square around a central courtyard. 'At one end of the building is a barn, while the two wings haven't yet been refurbished, but one day I would love to turn them into bed and breakfast accommodation,' Fabienne explains.

When the couple, who have two daughters – Oona, 13, and Evita, 10 – purchased the farmhouse in 2012, they had to use a considerable amount of imagination to picture what it could become. 'It had been a working farm until the 1980s, and at this point the interiors had undergone a very ugly renovation,' Fabienne recalls. 'On the ground floor, there were a lot of small, very gloomy rooms while on the level above, there was nothing other than attic space.'

Fabienne and Thierry undertook a huge amount of the work themselves, knocking down and stripping back walls, ripping up the flooring and sandblasting the blackened beams. It was only for some of the bigger jobs, such as replacing all the windows, that they used a local builder. 'For me, this was such an exciting project, interiors are my passion,' recounts Fabienne, who trained as a social worker but took evening classes in interior architecture and garden design.

It was Fabienne who painted all the rooms of the farmhouse, opting for traditional limewash preparations



HALLWAY

Reclaimed encaustic tiles create a striking entrance.

Have a look at the plain encaustic field tiles in Charcoal and Ivory, £3 each, Foras Surface Design. O'Keeffe Antiques is a good source for antique chandeliers



SNUG

This room features cherished pieces, including a sofa that belonged to Fabienne's grandmother and a deer head from her childhood home.

Large rustic grey stone-effect lamp base, £115, Cowshed Interiors, would work

MASTER BEDROOM

An upholstered bed and textiles in pretty pastels add feminine touches to this room, which was left open to the rafters to add a sense of drama.

French linen upholstered bed, from £1,285 for a king size, The French Bedroom Company, has a similar look



and mixing the colours herself. In order to help brighten the formerly dark spaces, she has used mostly pale colours such as soft stones and blues, but for a little snug area off the kitchen, she chose a purplish-brown hue to give this space intimacy. 'I call this room the café and I put a little table and two stools in there as I believe that some of the best conversations happen at café tables,' she says.

The Vandammes have favoured natural materials, choosing classic Belgian Blue stone for the flooring in the kitchen-cum-dining space and oiled oak boards for the rest of the house, except for the hallway, which is laid with reclaimed encaustic tiles. 'We like timeless materials that will last; we don't follow trends,' notes Fabienne, who commissioned a local designer specialising in oak cabinets to make the kitchen, which is crafted using traditional mortise and tenon joints.

Her choice of furnishings is equally timeless, and she has gone for predominantly vintage and antique pieces, visiting nearby flea markets as well as the larger trimestral markets in Bruges. 'I like the natural patina of old pieces, it gives them a soul,' says Fabienne. Also dotted around the house are a number of intriguing portraits. 'They all date back to the 18th century,' Fabienne explains. 'I have given each of them a name; I'm sure they would have some stories to tell.'

The result is a characterful home that truly reflects its owners. 'I think it's important to surround yourself with pieces that you love,' concludes Fabienne. 'It's not about following rules but living with the things that really make you happy.' 25



BATHROOM

Fabienne has favoured freestanding pieces, such as an elegant slipper bath.

Check out the Astonian slipper bath, £1,433.96, Aston Matthews. The Lily Manor Colusa wall shelf, £52.99, Wayfair, has a similar look



LANDING

Presided over by a portrait Fabienne has named Alphonsine, this cabinet was found in the street and was carefully restored.

Try The Hoarde for a decorative painted cabinet



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached house, built in the 1980s

LOCATION Surrey

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, family room, dining room, kitchen-diner, utility room, office, five bedrooms (four en suite)

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before, we lived in a Victorian semi nearby,' says Pauline.

A NEW ERA

Pauline and Alejandro Vicente drew on their European heritage when redesigning a dated detached house

FEATURE SALLY GILLAM | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAVID GILES

When Belgian Pauline Vicente and her Spanish husband Alejandro moved from a Victorian semi to a sprawling modern detached house nearby, it meant a radical shift in style. They had to leave the past firmly behind to set about creating the clean-cut, European-inspired home of their dreams.

While the footprint and layout of their new house suited them down to the ground,

Pauline recalls there was an incredible amount of work to be done. 'We chose McGarry-Moon Architects to help us transform it from tired and dated to chic and contemporary,' she says. 'The builders, BGC Team, worked with them to replace the roof, insulate and render walls, add a new balcony and change the doors and windows.'

The couple then turned their attention inside. 'We began at the top and worked down,' Pauline explains. 'On the first floor,

FAMILY ROOM

The striking painting was the decorative starting point for this conservatory-style space.

Artwork, James Cochran (aka Jimmy C)



HALLWAY

A sweeping, galleried staircase gives visitors a suitably grand first impression.

Driftwood herringbone flooring, £73.29sq m, Cheville Parquet



DECORATING TIP *'Think about how colours flow through the house, and don't be afraid to use bold hues to get a unique look'*



FAMILY ROOM

Deep aubergine walls give the Crittall-style windows extra impact.

Windows, price on request, Grabex.
Scott sofa in Grass Cotton Velvet, £999;
Ottoman bench, £349, both Made



KITCHEN

Two rooms were knocked into one for a more sociable layout.

To create this pendant, use Shoze Vintage multiple adjustable DIY ceiling spider lamp, £11.99; Edison bulbs, from £8.99, all Amazon.co.uk. Try Leverette height-adjustable swivel bar stools, £99.99 for two, Wayfair

a few walls were knocked out and some ceilings removed to incorporate the height of the attic space. Once this was done, we moved downstairs to create a large kitchen-diner, formal sitting room, dining room and a conservatory-style family room.'

It is in the 'conservatory' that Pauline's interiors expertise blossomed. A dramatic spray painting by Australian-born street artist James Cochran (aka Jimmy C) inspired the aubergine and green colour

scheme. 'I just love his work,' says Pauline. 'He's best known for his mural in Brixton of David Bowie.' While it was her primary goal to create an interior with a clean and contemporary twist, Pauline also managed to mix in some of her favourite family heirlooms. 'I inherited several pieces of furniture, such as the dining table and chairs I used as a child, and some fabulous chandeliers,' she says. But above all, the home had to be comfortable and practical

for their sons, Eduardo, now 17, Nicolas, 15, and Hugo, 11, plus Laika the Labrador.

When it came to the kitchen, Pauline knew exactly what she wanted, starting with a sleek microcement floor. 'It's very popular in Belgium but I couldn't find anyone here to lay one,' she says. 'My sister suggested a company in Belgium called L'Ocrier, and they came over and laid the floor in the kitchen and utility room in three days. It's an amazing process: the concrete is poured



DINING AREA
The custom-made drinks cabinet is well positioned for dinner parties. Winestoragecompany.co.uk sells a good range of wine fridges, price on request



EDUARDO'S BEDROOM
'I had several brainstorming sessions with lighting experts to come up with something unique,' says Pauline. Bespoke bedside lamps, Mr Sparx. Find a similar London bus poster, from £3.99, Laminatedposters.co.uk



MASTER EN SUITE
'The starting point for this scheme was the vanity (left), two mirrors and three wall lights,' says Pauline. Hart Silver bevelled mirror, £452.34, CP Hart. Basketweave mosaic floor tiles, £149.95sq m, Fired Earth

and worked by hand using different pigments to get exactly the colour and look you want. The splashback behind the cooker is microcement, too.'

Pauline designed the kitchen herself, then worked with Neil Norton Design, which specialises in bespoke units. 'I used several appliances from our last house, which saved money so I could splash out on some fabulous extras, like the floor-to-ceiling drinks cabinet,' she says. Pauline designed

the striking pendant, too, using a variety of Edison bulbs hung at different heights.

Those light-bulb moments kept cropping up in some unlikely places. For example, Pauline, a keen horse rider, spotted some discarded wood at her local stables, which she instantly knew would make a wonderful office desk. 'The owner gave them to me for free,' she says, 'and my builders simply cut a straight back and mounted them on steel roof-truss brackets.' A good cost-saving idea

for the bedrooms was to buy inexpensive Ikea wardrobe carcasses then add stylish doors and handles from Superfront, to create a more individual look.

Before the project began, Pauline took a course at KLC School of Design and has now set up her company Pauline Louis Interior Design. 'The course enabled me to combine my natural instincts with a deeper structural knowledge,' she says, and she has managed to do this very successfully. 25



DINING AREA
The tabletop is made from scaffold boards attached to a trestle.
The rustic feel was continued by hanging a foraged branch over the ceiling light.
Ogilvy fixed multi-pendant, £99, Made.
The CH24 Wishbone chair in Black Oak and Natural Paper Cord, £798, The Conran Shop, is a match

Breath of fresh air

Constructing a minimalist new build in verdant countryside was the opportunity for the Joslin family to create something unique and sophisticated

FEATURE CIARA ELLIOTT | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH





When Matthew and Belinda Joslin first viewed the plot of land which was to become the site of their new house, it was the area's dreamy semi-rural location and its proximity to schools and good transport links that were the immediate attractions. 'The garden ran down through old oak and fruit trees with stables at the side,' says Belinda. 'When we visited on the open day with the children, they spent an hour just running wild – it couldn't have been more perfect!'

Before completing the purchase, the couple met planners on the site to assess what was possible and make sure they could achieve what they wanted. There was a bungalow in situ, which wasn't in great condition, but Matthew and Belinda knew that they and their children, Gracie, 13, Oliver, 11, and Annabelle, eight, could live there as they planned the new build.

When it came to appointing an architect, the couple chose Tate Harmer, which specialises in environmentally focused architecture that is sympathetic to rural areas. The pair started to save pictures of houses they liked and found themselves gravitating towards a contemporary barn look. 'A modern build in a country setting felt more appropriate to us than a mock Georgian farmhouse,' says Belinda.

Once they had their plans, they chose a builder who came highly recommended. 'We found a local company who had the scale to take on a big project and were also invested in maintaining their excellent local reputation,' says Matthew.

Although Belinda runs a sustainable evening bag company



KITCHEN
This vaulted barn-like room features natural wood and plenty of indoor plants that echo the colours of the lush greenery in the garden.

Kungsbacka units, from £22 for a 30x80cm door, Ikea. Island worktop in

European Oak, around £74m, Thorogood Timber. Worktop Express sells marble-effect worktops, from £120 for 3m. The Junction chandelier, £199, Heal's, would also look good here. For an alternative stool, try the Simone bar chair, £199, John Lewis & Partners

LIVING AREA

'We wanted a living, dining and kitchen space that we could all be together in, doing our own thing, but with a strong familial atmosphere,' says Belinda.

The Benn coffee table, £129, Made, would also suit this setting. For similar flooring, try Kersaint Cobb's Traditions FHBO Rustic Oak Natural brushed and UV oiled engineered wood, £67.99sq m

**HOME TRUTHS****THE PROPERTY**

Eco-focused new build

LOCATION North Essex

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area/snug, larder, office, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a beautiful but very demanding period listed house in a nearby village,' says Belinda.



LANDING

Handcrafted pieces, including a chandelier made by Belinda using a wooden gymnastic hula hoop and bookshelves built by a local carpenter, add unique touches.

The Tom Raffield Kern Hoop pendant ceiling light, £545, John Lewis & Partners, is similar



called Moniko, she took a career break so that she could oversee the work. Matthew runs a London digital marketing agency so was commuting during the construction, which meant Belinda took on varying roles of project manager and interior stylist. 'I even attended courses in lighting, kitchen and bathroom design in order to manage parts of the build that can be harder to get right,' she says.

Once the timber frame was up, the building was made watertight and insulated. The metal roof was chosen to be low-maintenance, hard wearing and to echo the agricultural style of the local farm buildings. Other low-energy, eco features included a mechanical ventilation heat-recovery system, LED lighting, high-level roof lights to release rising hot air in summer, black-stained timber cladding from a sustainable source, and low-flow sanitaryware to reduce daily water use. The final design reflects the family's love of the outdoors, with large sliding glazed doors that connect the living space with the south-facing garden. 'We love being able to see and access the garden from every angle,' says Belinda. 'It feels like we are really living in the landscape.'

The build went smoothly and the house was completed in just under eight months. Now that they are in their bright and airy new home, with its verdant views of the garden and countryside all around, was all the hard work worth it? 'Absolutely,' says Belinda. 'We now have a wonderfully flexible space where the children can grow up – it's so much more than we could have ever have expected.' 25

MASTER BEDROOM
This light-filled space has been kept simple, with clean lines, natural tones and rustic materials for a calm feel. Curtains and blind made by Belinda in Norrland fabric in Indigo, £35m, Villa Nova. The dressing table and stool (right) were from Graham and Green;

try the chevron oak dressing table, £525, Cox & Cox

BATHROOM
Flashes of yellow liven up this white and grey scheme. The rug is by Pappelina at Vanil; its Otis in Mustard/Vanilla, £35, is a good alternative. Vinyl flooring in Pebble Grey, £29sq m, The Colour Flooring Company

FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY



OPPOSITES ATTRACT

Mid-century classics and urban industrial fittings give Rebecca Herman's renovated period barn an unexpected contemporary twist

FEATURE LOUISE O'BRYAN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH



LIVING AREA

‘Creating this expansive family living space has transformed how we use the house,’ says Rebecca. ‘We’re no longer huddled in the smaller rooms.’

Greaves and Thomas armchairs, £800 each, Elephant & Monkey.

Caged lights, from £128 each, Urban Cottage Industries. Walls in Cornforth White estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball





HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached house, dating back to 1740, with renovated barn

LOCATION York

ROOMS Sitting room, living/dining room, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, office, studio, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2005

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a smaller period home closer to York city centre,' says Rebecca.



DINING AREA

'I found the G-Plan table and chairs at an auction and paired them with a complementing designer light,' says Rebecca.

Volume 1 pendant lights by Niclas Hoflin for Rubn, £175 each, Twentytwentyone. For artwork by Amy Dennis, try Art UK, price on request

KITCHEN-DINER
Bar stools from Rebecca's childhood home perfectly match the units, and a lack of wall cupboards keeps the look open and airy.

Try Pamono for an Arkana Tulip dining table, £2,100, and matching chairs, £248 each. Walls in Charleston Gray estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



FAVOURITE FEATURE *'I love the contrast between the new barn and period rooms at the front, which always prompts gasps of astonishment from guests'*

Rebecca Herman credits her passion for design to growing up in the 1960s and 70s with parents who experimented with adventurous interiors. 'As a child, I was very aware of their love of interiors and belief that your home should be filled with beautiful and meaningful objects,' she says. 'The time they spent at auction houses, with me and my sister, encouraged us to develop our own style and to see the value of antique furniture.'

An obsession for seeking out old and interesting pieces began in earnest when Rebecca inherited a 1960s lamp and coffee table from her parents for her first flat in London. Since then, she has continued to mix eclectic finds with family heirlooms. So, when Rebecca and her husband, Dan – who have a son Peter, now 12 – stumbled upon this period semi outside York 13 years ago, they knew filling the

rooms wasn't going to be an issue – it was the renovation work it needed that was daunting. 'Our experience only stretched to fitting new kitchens and bathrooms, so we were apprehensive about taking it on,' says Rebecca. Despite the property's drawbacks, the couple were swayed by its peaceful ambience and potential, having eyed up the derelict barn in the garden. 'It had no roof and needed rebuilding but we could see that it would be a great way to extend the house and add a contemporary surprise at the rear of a period property.'

Within a few months of moving in, work began on the front portion of the house, introducing central heating, reinstating sash windows and moving the bathroom upstairs. The kitchen was renovated a year later, and finally the barn was rebuilt six years after they moved in, which gave the couple plenty of time to research and

plan what they wanted. ‘I loved the idea of having an industrial, urban living space behind the cosy traditional rooms,’ says Rebecca.

With such a vast space to play with, Rebecca sourced shapely mid-century chairs to create intimacy and define the separate seating areas, while also softening the crisp white walls and cool, tiled floor. ‘Converting the barn was a great excuse to introduce another era of furniture to the house – bold retro pieces really complement the rustic aesthetic,’ she says. Rebecca has cleverly eased the transition from the barn to the original house by teaming the G-Plan dining furniture with a striking contemporary cluster light. ‘Displaying these pieces together sums up my interior style,’ says Rebecca, whose design takes another twist and turn upstairs, where opulent

colours and textures are teamed with an antique brass bed to bring a distinctly traditional feel to the master bedroom.

‘The house has a certain calmness and tranquillity about it, and recently I’ve introduced more houseplants, particularly in the bathroom, which has ramped up the serenity factor,’ explains Rebecca. These thoughtful backdrops of earthy colours are the key to the success of her mix of furnishings from across the eras, as they masterfully tie each scheme together with harmony and balance.

‘Sadly, we don’t have space for any more furniture but I do like buying ceramics and paintings to update our spaces,’ says Rebecca. ‘My sister is also a great vintage hunter and we regularly swap pieces. A love for old things definitely runs in the family.’ 25

BEDROOM

A green velvet bedspread adds a flash of rich colour and texture to this stark, white attic area.

J by Jasper Conran chevron velvet bedspread, £125, Debenhams. Metal wall lights, around £285 each, In The Woodshed. Work in Progress trolley, £275, Baileys



OFFICE

The house was originally home to a seedsman – his winch for pulling sacks of seeds up to the loft is still in working order.

Cherner Classic walnut armchair, £1,164, The Conran Shop



BATHROOM

Metro wall tiles add a modern, glossy finish to the earthy palette.

Astrea Grey tiles, £1.56 each, Topps Tiles. The Wye bateau cast-iron bath, from £3,570, Drummonds



STRACHAN

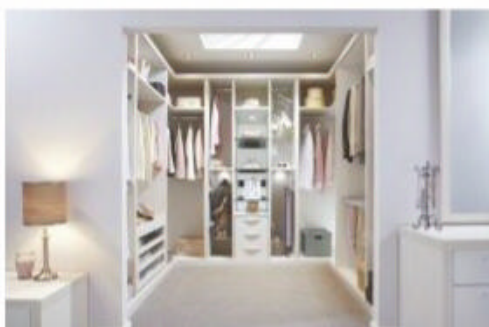
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KITCHEN

The stunning vaulted ceiling brings the wow factor in this new addition to the cottage.

Bespoke cabinetry by John Britten from Oakley Furniture. Cupboards painted in Ammonite, island painted in Hague Blue, both estate eggshell, £62 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A 17th-century cottage with modern extension

LOCATION Berkshire

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, snug, study, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2014

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Prior to this, we had a 1950s house nearby,' says Alice.



Making history

After falling in love with a dated 17th-century cottage, Alice and James Geddes extended it to create a welcoming family home

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS | PHOTOGRAPHY POLLY ELTES

DINING AREA

Taking pride of place here, classic farmhouse furniture creates a country-style feel.

For a good match, try the Dorchester table, £249; and kitchen chairs, £120 a pair, both The Cotswold Company. Linenstars Grey linen tablecloth, £26, Etsy, would work well here



SNUG

Pink floral curtains add warmth to this room.

Curtains in Paris Rose in Raspberry fabric, £75m, Cabbages & Roses. Hamptworth sofa, £975, Willow & Hall



SITTING ROOM

Alice opted for soft colours to complement the muted honey hue of the beams.

Sofa and chairs upholstered in Hammond Ivory linen, £102m, Colefax and Fowler. Walls in Cornforth White estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



EN SUITE

The positioning of the bath creates symmetry. Chalice freestanding bath, £1,637, Drench. The antique chair was recovered in a fabric similar to Sudbury Park, £52.80m, Colefax and Fowler. Vanity unit (right) painted in Wimborne White estate eggshell, £62 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



ANGUS' BEDROOM

Alice has layered throws on the bed to help turn this space into a cosy den.

Faux-fur throw, £250, Oka. Plain wool throw, £75, John Lewis & Partners, is similar. Feature wall painted in Dix Blue estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



Alice Geddes and her husband James bought their 17th-century Berkshire cottage knowing it needed lots of work, but having renovated other properties, they were undaunted. 'It hadn't been touched for around 40 years but we could see its potential,' says Alice. 'I loved its air of "secretness", and its beautiful surroundings.'

The couple also liked the fact that it would give their sons, Angus, now 14, Lachy, 12, and Archie, 8, freedom to roam. 'It also had so many original features, such as old floor tiles and even a bread oven, which gave it so much character,' says Alice. 'We knew that we could transform it into something fantastic.'

'We lived here for a year before we decided exactly what to do,' says Alice. The couple then came across a local company called Hartwood Oak, specialising in oak-framed extensions. 'We liked their work, so we asked them to do the remodelling work throughout as well as building an extension to house the new kitchen,' says Alice. 'Instead of dealing with lots of builders, we decided it was easier to work with just one company.'

Such a radical programme of building work meant the house had to be gutted, so Alice, James and the boys decided to move out for the duration of the project. 'We lived in a static caravan

in the garden for nearly a year,' says Alice. 'It was important to be on site and also exciting to see the work taking place.'

The couple wanted an extension in keeping with the cottage and which suited its surroundings. 'We didn't just want a box on the end of the house,' says Alice. The result comprised a weathered timber façade with large windows to the sides and back to allow for uninterrupted views over the countryside.

The kitchen also incorporates a dining area, positioned where the back door was once located. With the structural works complete, Alice sought the help of her friend, interior designer Lisa Cook, who helped her select the colour palette. 'I was keen to keep the cottage feel but also wanted a sophisticated look,' says Alice and the resulting soft blues and elegant greys, achieve this. 'It's cottage style with flair,' says Alice.

Now that the renovation is complete, Alice and James are delighted. 'The interior space flows from the kitchen to the beamed rooms elsewhere and the soft colours of the decor and warm tones of the wood bring it to life,' says Alice. 'The most beautiful countryside for walking and cycling is right on our doorstep, yet we're only 20 minutes from a town, so it's a really convenient location. It's the perfect family home.' 25



MASTER BEDROOM

Yellow accents add vibrancy while evoking a feel of spring in this relaxing space.

Try Jaipur throw in Turmeric, £140, Christy. Cow Parsley cushion, £35, John Lewis & Partners, would work here. For similar side tables, try Provencale side tables, £350 each, Laura Ashley



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Top-floor flat within a Victorian building

LOCATION South London

ROOMS Hallway, kitchen-diner/living area, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2017

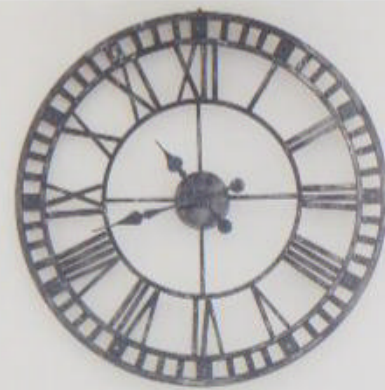
PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, I lived in a smaller flat nearby,' says Will.

KITCHEN

'I asked the builders to customise the island with glass doors and shelves to make it look like a smart piece of furniture,' says Will.

British Standard cupboards, £535 for a 44cm unit, Plain English. Island in Down Pipe estate eggshell, £62 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Try Maisons du Monde's Factory metal clock, £44



MODERN UPLIFT

Will Perrott made some clever design decisions to utilise every inch of available space in this bright, contemporary apartment



LIVING AREA
Three rooms were knocked into one to create the living, dining and kitchen space. Try the Renn UK Harry coffee table with hairpin legs, £325, Notonthehighstreet.com

When Will Perrott took on a project to renovate and extend into the loft of his top-floor apartment, interiors decision-making went hand-in-hand with architectural changes.

‘Flats have the tendency to feel small and I wanted my home to look architecturally interesting with a sense of light and space,’ says Will, who works in commercial real estate. ‘I knocked three rooms into one kitchen-diner/living area, painted all the walls white and used a dark-grey shade on

the kitchen island, steel staircase, doors and window frames to give a sense of contrast.’

Will had used a loft conversion company in his previous home and been disappointed with the ‘bland and generic’ outcome. In this property, he was keen to create impact. Will met Ben Hawkins from architecture and interior design practice Granit and he liked the firm’s modern approach. Ben’s plan for the flat included a steel staircase that draws light down through the interior. ‘A side dormer creates space for the stairs, which has open treads and a glass balustrade

to disperse the light,’ explains Will. ‘The steel is spray-painted in a charcoal grey to match the shade I’ve used elsewhere.’

Ben’s clever design manages to marry the planner’s regulations to keep the ceiling with a decent head height in the new bedroom – all by lowering the floor. ‘The en suite floor level drops down again to fit in the shower and loo,’ says Will. ‘Directly below, the kitchen sash windows appear to finish at the ceiling as we had to retain their height.’

IQ Living carried out the building work on the flat, which was stripped back to a shell



DINING AREA
Oversized pendant lights help to anchor the table in the open-plan room. Pooky’s larger Soprano concrete pendant lights, £79 each, are similar



HALLWAY
Artwork in black and white and a smart grey radiator echo the shade of the steel staircase

MASTER BEDROOM
 'I kept the brick wall exposed to reflect the room's previous life as an attic,' says Will.
 Try the Duck Egg Union Jack cushion, £45, English Folly



and reconfigured to add a new bedroom and en suite. Will began to execute his interior ideas, taking cues from Hilary Robertson's book *Monochrome Home*. 'It encouraged me to add contrast with a darker tone, though I tried to avoid black as that absorbs too much light,' says Will. Childhood holidays in East Anglia were also a big influence. 'Norfolk is all about beaches and huge open skies so I used washed-out greys and blues with sandy tones,' he says.

Flooring is simplified with engineered oak in the main living spaces and on the stair

treads, which Will treated with lye to remove the pigment and lighten the timber. 'Using wood was important to create a sense of warmth and texture,' he says, 'but I didn't want to whitewash the floors, otherwise the apartment would have felt too cold.'

Continuity applies to other materials, too – slate and marble kitchen worksurfaces echo the Victorian marble fire surround in the living area, as does the stone used in the bathrooms. Furniture and furnishings continue the monochrome theme and help to create separate zones. 'It's a large room

so my mother, who's an interior designer, encouraged me to think about how to segment the space,' says Will. 'The dark-grey island divides the kitchen from the dining area. This charcoal grey then nods to the original fireplace in the living area and inspired the lighting I chose.'

Will is especially pleased with how the light and dark tones have come together in his renovated home. 'The whole apartment is a good place to hang out,' he says, 'and the design of my loft bedroom is exactly as I hoped it would be. I couldn't be happier.' 25

BATHROOM
 A mirrored panel behind the bath helps make this room feel more spacious.

For a similar Roman blind, try the Faux Silk Silver blackout, £35, Dunelm



EN SUITE
 Will chose pebble floor tiles as a reminder of childhood beach holidays.

Caribbean Candy Pebble tiles, £49.29sq m, Mandarin Stone



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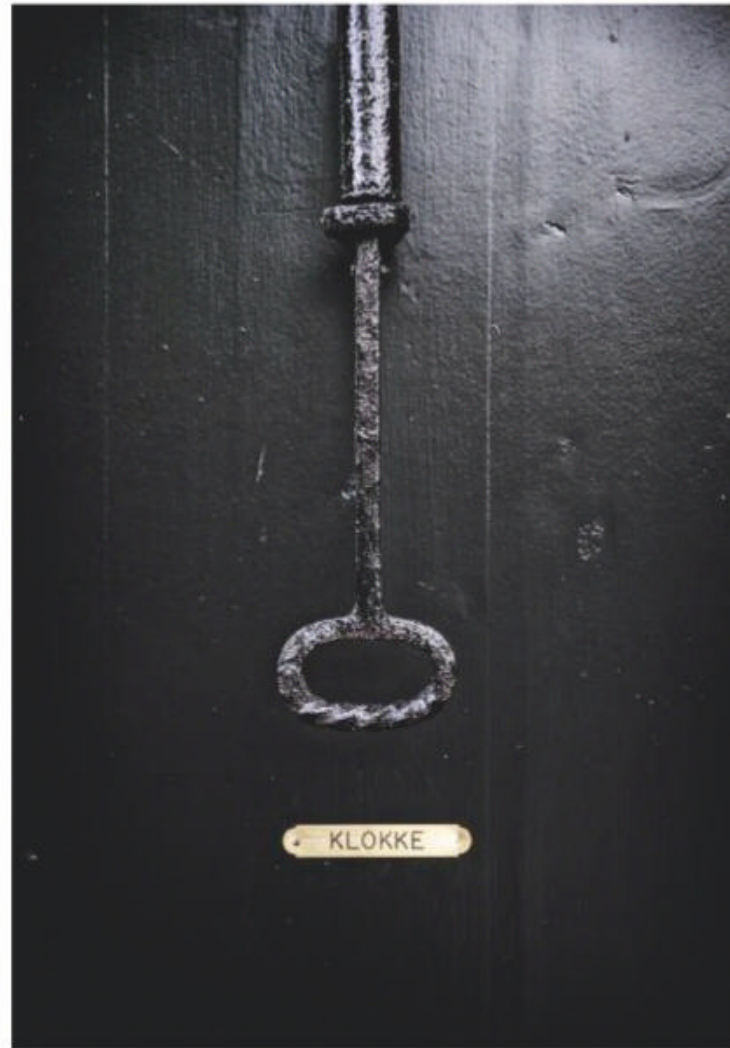
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ARTISTIC flair



Creativity flows throughout this light-filled Danish villa, the dream home of artist Signe Høm and her husband Michael Berntsen



FEATURE MELANIE WHITEHOUSE/CHRISTINA B KJELDSSEN
PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTINA KAYSER O/LIVING INSIDE



DINING AREA
Pine-green velvet stools provide comfortable seating at the marble-topped breakfast bar. Try Cosy bar chair in Green velvet, £274, Pols Potten at Made In Design

FAVOURITE ITEM *'I love the vintage Danish baker's sign in the dining space – it's from my mother, who passed on her love of collecting to me'*

When Danish painter Sigurd Swane's beautiful brick villa on the outskirts of Copenhagen came up for sale, it was no surprise that it was snapped up by a fellow artist. Signe Høm Berntsen, who creates fine paper art, used to walk past the house with her husband, Michael, and admire the vast floor-to-ceiling window that the original owner had designed to flood his studio with light.

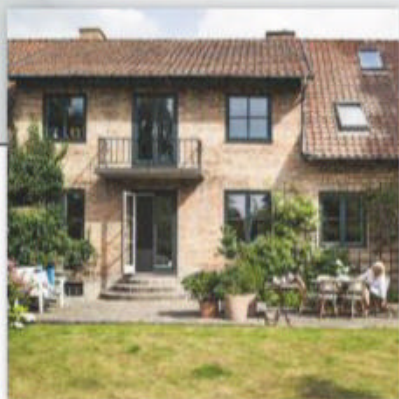
'No "For Sale" sign ever went up, but one day I spotted it in an estate agent's window,' says Signe. 'The house had been divided in two and, although the studio wasn't included in the sale, we went for a viewing. It had so many beautiful details and such wonderful light – Michael and I quickly realised this house was right for us.'

'Fortunately, it was also in great condition,' Signe adds. 'But we put in a new kitchen and removed the wall between the kitchen and dining room to create a brighter, more open feel.'

The kitchen-diner is now a favourite room, with smart dark-grey painted cabinetry and sleek white marble worktops. A dresser at one end houses glassware and other items that Signe likes



DINING AREA
Distinctive details include the 1920s parquet flooring with mahogany inserts and an old Danish baker's sign. Fusion bentwood dining chairs, £195.99 for four, Wayfair, would work here



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached 1920s villa

LOCATION Hellerup,
Denmark

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room,
kitchen-diner, living area, studio
space, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

‘We lived nearby in a spacious
apartment,’ says Signe.



KITCHEN

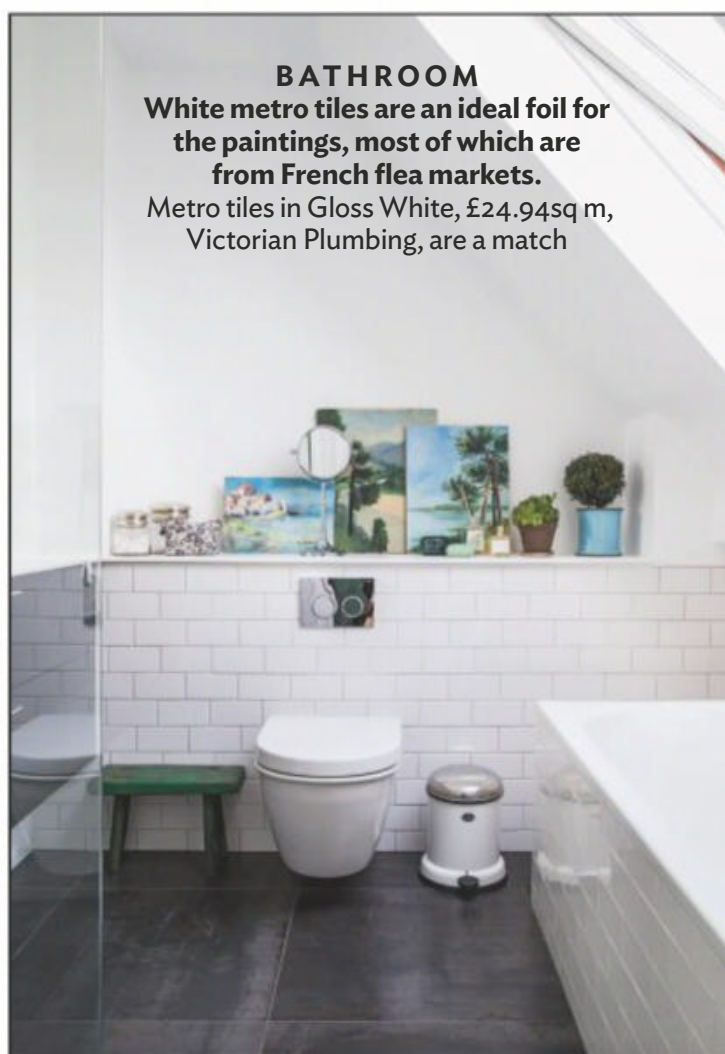
Dark-grey cabinetry provides ample storage, while chic brass handles add a touch of French elegance and balance the modern feel of the space. Slab doors in Matt Graphite, from £14.12, Kitchen Door Outlet, have this look. Touchpoint polished brass D-bar handles, £1.85 each, Ironmongery Direct, are similar

SITTING ROOM

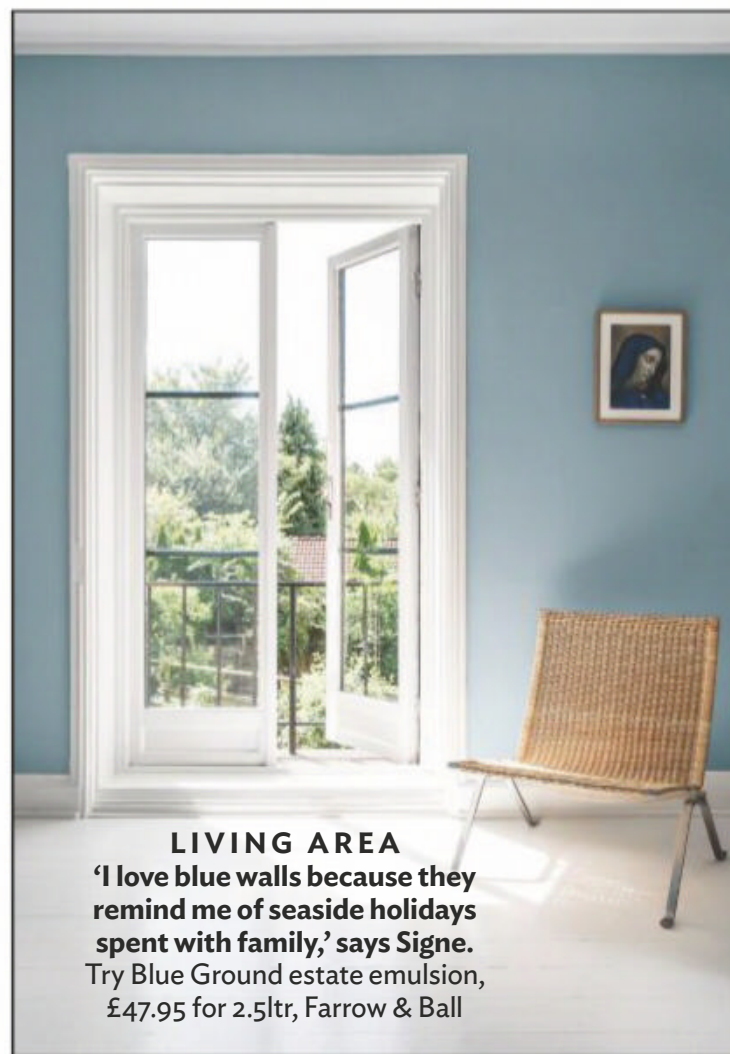
Pale-grey covers on the sofas and armchairs enhance the light, airy feel of this intimate seating area, arranged around a navy rug that adds depth and defines the space.

Elstead Amarilli five-light chandelier with Black and Silver finish, £328.86, Castlegate Lights, would work here. Kir marble coffee table, £349, Swoon, is a similar design





BATHROOM
 White metro tiles are an ideal foil for the paintings, most of which are from French flea markets.
 Metro tiles in Gloss White, £24.94sq m, Victorian Plumbing, are a match



LIVING AREA
 'I love blue walls because they remind me of seaside holidays spent with family,' says Signe.
 Try Blue Ground estate emulsion, £47.95 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

DECORATING TIP *'Don't force a style on your home – let it develop and grow at its own pace'*

to have on view, while flowers adorn most of the rooms, reflecting her love of the natural world.

As the grandchild of Danish artist Paul Høm and daughter of a photographer, Signe has a honed eye for shape, colour and composition. Throughout the house, interesting flooring – some patterned, some plain – is combined with white or blue walls, unusual lighting, textured fabrics and finishes, and fascinating accessories displayed in innovative ways.

'I love colour and grew up with yellow, blue and purple walls,' she says. 'My father and my grandfather loved blue, and I always want blue walls in my home. But Michael likes white walls, so I mainly get my colour fix through glass, porcelain, art and whatever else I collect.'

Most of these pieces have been inherited, found in antiques shops or bought on holidays abroad. 'We often travel to the south of France and pick up many flea market treasures there,' says Signe. 'I like to find something I care about, which is beautiful now and will still be beautiful in 25 years. Many of our things have a story – furniture or possessions that have grown with us and define who we are in a personal way.' 25



BEDROOM
 Pretty floral wallpaper brings a feel of the garden inside.
 Rosanna wallpaper, £11 a roll, Wilko, has this look

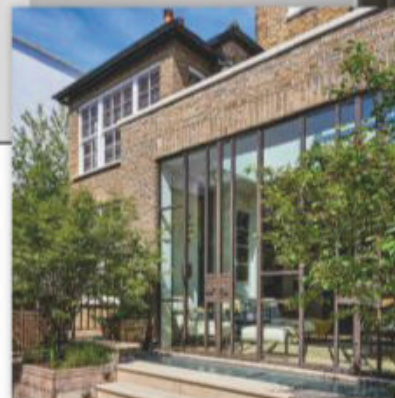
SITTING ROOM

A pair of saffron-coloured velvet chaises and long-haired sheepskin-covered bentwood armchairs provide striking textural contrast. For bespoke sheepskin upholstery, try Wildash London. Valentin Loellmann brass and walnut coffee table, price on request, Galerie Gosserez

Return to splendour

Ethel Ozen and interior designer Sule Arinc have revived this period terrace and created an elegant contemporary home

FEATURE AMANDA HARLING | PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Four-storey Victorian terrace

LOCATION West London

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner/living area, family room, cinema, gym, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

PURCHASED 2014

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

‘Before moving here, I lived in a house in Istanbul,’ says Ethel.



FAMILY ROOM

The diamond patterned moulding on the ceiling is cleverly echoed in the design of the alcove bookshelves.

Boss armchair, £3,980; ottoman, £1,804, Flexform. The Costay side table in Pink, £29.99, The Range, is a good alternative



SITTING ROOM

Natural colours and a bench-style seat create an outdoor feel in this area overlooking the lush garden.

Tari coffee table (just seen), £2,507, Gotham. Roberto Lazzeroni DRDP bench, £14,000, Ceccotti Collezioni



DINING ROOM

'The chandelier, which takes the form of a branch, looks spectacular lit up at night,' says Ethel.

Branch chandelier, price on request, David Wiseman.

Lema Memo table, from £2,480, Italia Collezione



**KITCHEN-DINER**

A roof light (below) floods the dining space with light.

Try the reclaimed solid oak parquet industrial chic table, £695, RccFurniture at Etsy. Antonio Citterio Fulgens chairs, price on request, B&B Italia



FAVOURITE PIECE *'I love the kitchen table. The reclaimed wood top has a warmth that works so well with the geometric pattern'*

Collaborating with my clients is important,' says London-based Turkish interior designer Sule Arinc of Atelier T-Delight. 'In this case, the renovation of a house in Kensington, I had been friends with my clients for many years. When they relocated to London from Istanbul they asked me to help, first with finding a property, then to make it into a home. Knowing them well was helpful as I was familiar with their taste in art and how they like to live.'

In this case, Ethel Ozen, who is American, and her Turkish husband share a quirky approach to design. What appealed about this Victorian house was that it was double-fronted and unusually wide compared to many London houses, which tend to be tall and narrow. However, the internal layout was less than ideal so Jones Lambell, an architectural practice that Sule had worked with before, was commissioned to rationalise the space and organise the building work. 'Ethel participated in every decision and was frequently on site, helping to refine the design,' says Gerard Ellis of Jones Lambell.

The decision to relocate the staircase from the middle of the house to one side made it possible to transform the ground floor, creating two expansive, light-filled rooms. The view now extends from the entrance through the hallway to the sitting room and the garden beyond. Tall glazed double doors lead into

the sitting room where another set of doors opens onto the garden. 'Initially, the plan was to make the extension a conservatory, but in this case a large space with two seating areas works better,' explains Sule.

Contemporary furniture from Italy, Scandinavia and New York is mixed with mid-century designs from specialist antiques dealers. 'It can take time to search for exactly the right item,' says Sule, 'but finding the perfect piece is worth waiting for.'

The first floor was completely reconfigured to create a layout that adapts to the family's requirements for a guest bedroom as well as a master bedroom with his and hers shower rooms. When occupied, the guest bedroom has access to one of the shower rooms, which can be closed off from the main suite by means of a pocket door. 'The guest bedroom would have been unacceptably small if it had an en suite so the couple share a shower room when they have friends to stay,' says Gerard.

On the lower ground floor is the open-plan kitchen-diner and fireside sitting room. 'Previous owners had excavated beneath the garden and we converted that section into a cinema room with an adjoining gym,' says Ethel. 'It's a retreat from the outside world. We'll watch a movie when our children come to stay or we can invite friends. Like the rest of the house, the space is adaptable – it's a home that works for us in every way, and we love it.'



MASTER BEDROOM
Removing the original ceiling created extra height, which is accentuated by the sculptural pendant light. Apparatus Arrow pendant light, £5,379, SCP. Robinson wallcovering, £181lin m, Elitis. Oltre king-size bed, from £4,750, Flexform



BATHROOM
The generous use of heavily veined marble finishes gives this scheme a luxurious, opulent look. The Calacatta Oro marble-topped unit was custom made; try the Locky vanity basin suite, from £7,140, Drummonds. Night and Day blind, price on request, Casa Valentina



BEDROOM
Sloping walls, patterned wallpaper and an upholstered bed create a cosy cocooning effect in this attic space. For a similar bed, try the Hugger in Honeycomb Clever Softie fabric, £1,275, Loaf. The Mind The Gap Empire Ivory wallpaper, £190 a roll, The Gifted Few, would also work well here

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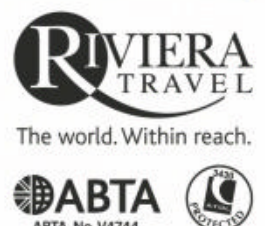
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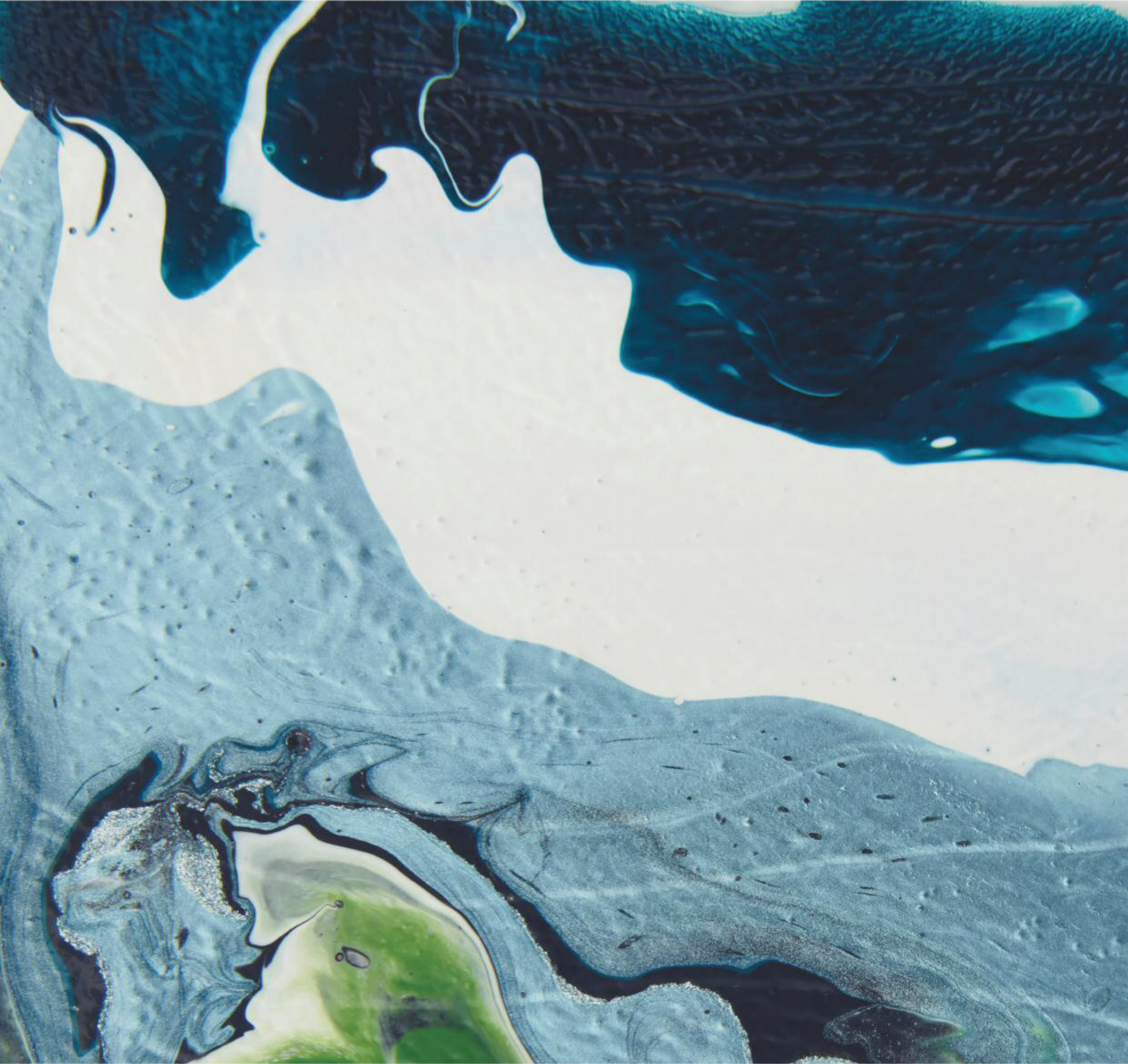
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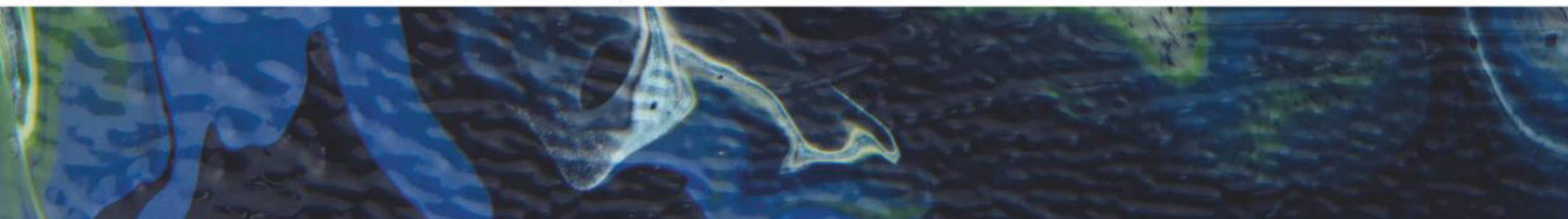
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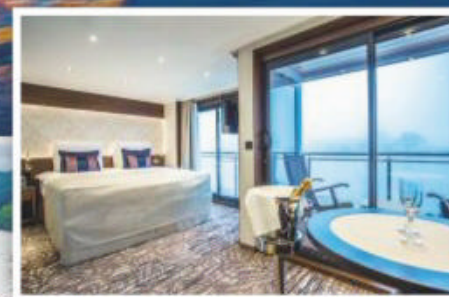
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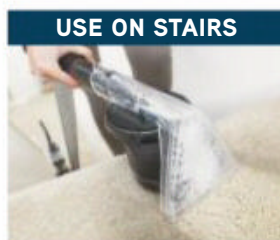
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When decorating powerhouse Ilse Crawford was given the design reins at a Stockholm townhouse marked to become boutique hotel Ett Hem, owner Jeanette Mix's chief criterion was that the property should feel like a beautiful private home, not a hotel. This style language had a considerable effect on the hospitality offering, creating multiple drawing rooms and cosy nooks for guests to relax at ease, never feeling like the lobby-come-bar lounges, swarming with fussing waiters, typical of larger hotels. In the room pictured above, the hotel's principal living space, Crawford has created a rich, layered look that diffuses the building's grand bones for a more comforting feel. Impressive architectural details such as the wood

panelling are made less imposing with the use of a dark greige paint – try Farrow & Ball's Mole's Breath for similar. Block-coloured rugs help to define spaces, but they're small enough so as not to dominate the warmth of the oak parquet floors. Furniture is big, bold and soothingly upholstered in soft wools and smooth suede, while the room's numerous, but barely there, lighting components promise a gentle glow. The trio of grass-green snug chairs – Cassina's Utrecht armchair – are a focal point that adds modern intrigue to an otherwise classically unpretentious scheme. The original double doors were removed, opening the space up to a boardroom-turned-study, with heaving bookcase walls that invite guests to pull a tome and curl up, as if the space was their very own. 25

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